Tuesday, February 15, 2011 | Tomorrow / 1 - 26 / No. 69 | P18 | www.inquirer.net | Manila Metro Tel 896 6000 | 1-800-10-896-6000 | DAILY FINANCIAL TIMES

GRAMMY SPECTACLE Lady Gaga steps out of a translucent egg to perform at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards show at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday. She walked away with the best pop vocal album award. AFP

Country trio upsets Eminem at Grammys

LOS ANGELES—Country trio Lady Antebellum and Canadian rock band Arcade Fire lit up the Grammy Awards on Sunday, winning key prizes in a ceremony jandied with upset victories and a humiliating setback for Eminem.

Eminem, the hip-hop star who led the field with 10 nominations and had been expected to dominate the ceremony, ended up with just two awards in the end-field.

Lady Antebellum, on the other hand, picked up five prizes.

CARMEN NG

P-Noy: I know Garcia backers

'Once we're ready, DOJ will file cases'

NIVEA HEART President Aquino receives a heart-shaped balloon from cancer patients Mary Joy San Felipe, 17, and Jaime Patrick Bantayanan, 8, during Monday's inauguration of the upgraded facilities of East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City

By Christine O. Avendaño, Marlon Ramos and Nicole Pigar

IT'S JUST a matter of time before Malacañang cracks down on those behind retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, a former military comptroller accused of plunder, President Aquino said yesterday.

Mr. Aquino said he had "ideas" about the presence of Garcia, who pushed hard in December last year after pleading guilty to a lesser offense under a countersecond plea bargain with government prosecutors.

The President said he did not get the information from Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who earlier indicated that he knew Garcia's protector.

"I haven't had any opportunity to talk to Sonny Trillanes," Mr. Aquino told reporters.

The President said that his communication with Trillanes over the years had only been through letters, including one that was sent after the senator

P-NOY, A4

Trillanes flip-flops on Reyes again

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV yesterday tried to wriggle out of his previous claim that the late former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes was the "powerful" person behind former military comptroller Carlos Garcia, but the Senate stood firm on the accuracy of its report.

Garcia has been at the center of a political storm after he and state prosecutors have last year entered into a plea bargain under which plunder charges against the former major general would be dropped if he pleaded guilty to the lesser offense of direct bribery and facilitating money laundering.

Garcia has been accused of plundering more than P300 million from state coffers.

On Feb. 2, the Inquirer carried a story in which Trillanes, in an interview with female reporters, identified Reyes as the powerful figure behind Garcia.

TRILLANES, A4

Miners, gov't nix ban in Palawan

By Riza T. Chichioco

MINING companies and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are opposing calls by civil society groups for the government to stop large-scale mining projects in Palawan.

"There is a mining law that regulates the operations of large-scale mining companies. There is also a process that has to be followed in all phases of mining operations—from exploration, development, mining and decommissioning," Artemio Disini, chair of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP),

MINERS, A8

Barmy German guilty of estafa, meted out 6 yrs

By Nika Calleja

JOSEPH BINE "Barmy" Gorman, wife of former President Joseph Estrada's stable inhabitant officer Aurelio "Bell" Gorman, has been convicted of estafa and sentenced to six years up to 10 years imprisonment.

Judge Imelda Buenvia of the Pasig Regional Trial Court, Branch 268 also ordered Gorman to pay P317 million to actual damages to the complainant, businessman Roy Ed-

ALMOST, A6

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Will romance bloom between Aukai and Imortal?

'Those who live longest have only 1 wife'

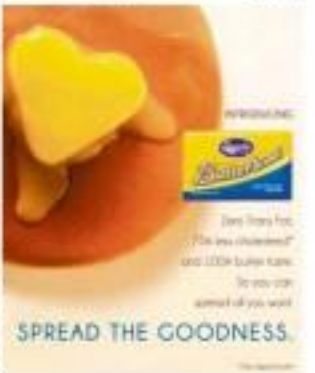
By Jeannette I. Andrade

FILL IN LOVE, have only one spouse—and be faithful.

That piece of advice didn't come from a priest or from a love guru but from a renowned cardiologist.

"Those who live longest have only one wife," Senate Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral said at Raphsan sa Diamond Hotel, a weekly media forum where the

THOSE, A6



Trader, helper split ₱77-M SuperLotto jackpot

By Miko Morales

ONE TICKET, two winners.

Hauling their bets on a single ticket, a stock engaged in the buy-and-sell business and his helper hit the ₱77 million jackpot in Thursday's Super Lotto 6/49 draw.

According to their agreement, the two will share the prize, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said.

The winners were not named for security reasons.

Manny Garcia, PCSO public relations and advertising manager, spoke with the winners when they came to the agency's office at the Philippine International Convention Center yesterday morning.

"They spent about an hour processing their winnings and both of them have an internal arrangement to split the pot," Garcia told the Inquirer by phone.

Technically, the PCSO only recognizes one SuperLotto winner

TRADER, A8

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/42
30 21
16 2
9 22

SUERTRES
4 9 7
4 4 9
2 7 8

FOUR DIGIT
9 6 9 8

MEGALOTTO 6/45
6 11 12 20 28 31
P24,509,191.60

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
14 32 37 44 46 55
P92,467,810.80

AFP, NPA agree to truce during talks

By Doris Z. Pizzaburger

MILITARY forces and the communist New People's Army (NPA) formally agreed to a weeklong cease-fire starting at 12:01 a.m. today to give way to the resumption of peace negotiations in Oslo, Norway.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines announced its agreement to the ceasefire shortly after it reported the arrest of ranking rebel leader Alan Jazmines.

Jazmines, said to be a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines' (CPP) central committee, was nabbed by police and military operatives shortly after 6 p.m. yesterday in a suspected rebel safehouse in Villa Aurea, Barangay Bubin, Bulihan, Malolos City, according to military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr.

The military said Jazmines had pending warrants of arrest for murder and rebellion in Calauag, Quezon, and Lucena City.

All indications of peace optimism, however, would immediately be usurped until the peace talks adjourn on Feb. 25, Mabanta said.

Both the government and the CPP issued statements saying the ceasefire was a "gesture of goodwill" in support of the peace talks.

Both sides also stressed that the ceasefire would not preclude defensive services should the other side break the ceasefire or hostilities agreement.

"We hope that this gesture will pave the way for winning the peace and permanently put an end to armed conflict," Mabanta said.

The CPP statement expressed the hope that the ceasefire would "improve the atmosphere for peace negotiations and inspire the release of political prisoners, the full implementation of safety and immunity guarantees, and the end of human rights violations."

The military accused the NPA of treachery when it launched three "pre-ceasefire hit-and-run attacks" in Mindanao that included ambushes among the casualties.

A civilian was killed and six others, including two soldiers, were wounded in Maco, Compostela Valley, when suspected NPA rebels used explosives to attack a six-vehicle convoy carrying troops belonging to the Alpha 71st Infantry Battalion and a number of civilians, the military spokesperson said.

On Monday at around 2 p.m., suspected rebels also fired upon a military patrol base in Brgy. Cabas, Barangay Inabasan, in San Carlos, Dinteo del Sur. No casualties were reported, the military said.

Around the same time Monday, a junior military officer and an enlisted personnel were wounded when their vehicle was attacked by suspected communist rebels with an improvised hand mine in Barangay New Calape in Oriental Mindoro, Campostela Valley. Three had been identified as Lieutenant Jimenez and Private First Class Garcia.

"Again we look at this as something treacherous and an act of bad faith," said Mabanta, adding that the rebels used hand mines which are banned in international warfare rules.

"These and again are facts and clear that are of these land mines is a clear violations of the CARHRIHL (Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law) and other agreements against land mines. Can they resumed their men in the field?" he added.

Earlier in the day Mabanta said civil-military operations will not be stopped during the ceasefire.

He denied NPA claims that the civil-military operations were cover to "harass" communities.

"That's not true. You can ask anyone. Our troops are very much welcomed in the communities). We provide government services to areas that cannot be reached by any government agency," Mabanta said.

"We cannot give in to the suggestion of civil-military operations. We're only talking here of the suspension of offensive military operations," he said.

Meanwhile, government peace advocates have initiated their own campaign to solicit more support for the ongoing peace negotiations with the communist rebels as well as the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

A peace wall signing was launched yesterday at various public and private schools, non-government organizations, government agencies and local government units around the country, according to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. With a report by Joljie Mollari Jr., inquirer Southern Luzon

Bishop warns of revolt over RH bill

By Jaymiel R. Uy
and Christine Avendaño

SORSOGON? But the issue could lead to another Church-led popular uprising, Novaliches Bishop Emeritus Teodoro Buenaventura said Catholic bishops in the country had never been so united after Edsa I as they were now in opposing the reproductive health (RH) bill.

At his homily during Sunday's interfaith prayer rally against the family planning measure being pressed in Congress, Buenaventura said President Aquino must listen to the Church or he might end up losing the support of the people.

"I think President Aquino would prefer a people power with the people on his side rather than as his opponent," said Binay.

The success of the Edsa revolt in February 1986 which ended decades of the Marcos dictatorship was attributed in large part to the strong support of the Catholic Church in the three-day mass protests.

Buenaventura said the bishops' opposition to the RH bill, which seeks to provide universal access to artificial contraceptives, is "based on principle" and not on politics.

"But in rejecting the RH bill, not one bishop was opposed... we are all unanimous," said Tagum. He noted that Buenaventura supported in the recent history of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines after Edsa I, whose aftermath saw the emergence of the President's mother, Corazon Aquino, as the nation's leader.

This was telling and the President must pay attention, the prelate added.

But for now, President Aquino said yesterday the reproductive health bill that his administration supports is not about setting population growth targets but seeking to realize the idea "that bringing children into this world really is a responsibility of the parents" so they "know best their capabilities to nurture all of these children."

"So it's really a reorientation of the reproductive health debate," Mr. Aquino told reporters.

The President was asked to elaborate on the statement he made last that the Palace is coming up with an alternative to the RH bill now pending in Congress, and the Church's position on family planning.

Mr. Aquino said the Palace doesn't "condemn genocide" with the statement to Congress as well as with the position of the Church on the issue.

He clarified that the RH bill the Palace was aiming for was not meant to set population growth targets.

"It's really an empowering of the parents themselves and even the couples for that matter, final two are arriving to achieve, not (choosing) absolute numbers," he said.

In a pastoral letter issued on Jan. 31, the Church hierarchy invoked the spirit of Edsa I, exhorting the faithful to "pray together, motorcycle together, walk together, go together, do whatever it takes to unite the people over the many threats to human life and to our shared human and cultural values."

Not up to par, HK kin say of PH probe

HONG KONG — Hong Kong opened a coroner's inquest Monday into eight tourists' deaths last year in a Philippines bus hijacking that shocked this wealthy Chinese territory, where doubts linger about the outcome of Manila's investigation.

Many in Hong Kong are upset that Philippine President Benigno Aquino chose not to pursue criminal charges against the top police and security officials who oversaw the botched rescue operation.

Relatives of the victims who attended Monday's court hearing said they were seeking closure.

"The main thing I want is an answer[ing], a reason," said Leung Ruen-ching, whose younger brother Ben was among the victims. "If course I don't accept the investigation results over there (in the Philippines.)"

Ken Leung's wife escaped unhurt, but his two daughters also were killed and his son is still recovering from a serious head injury that initially left him in a coma.

"I want this to be investigated thoroughly," said Wong Ching-shum, whose younger brother Pinoy Tze Jun was a tourist. "The way they do things (in the Philippines) definitely isn't up to par."

The inquest won't determine criminal or civil liability involving the hijacking. Judge Michael Chan said it is meant to determine the cause of death of the eight Hong Kong victims.

One key question is whether all eight were gunned down by the hostage taker, ex-police officer Rolando Mendoza, or if they were hit by friendly fire.

150 witnesses

The coroner plans to summon 34 Hong Kong witnesses and 116 from the Philippines...although Chan said he doesn't expect most of the Philippine witnesses to attend. Some have refused depositions, including Manila police chief Rodolfo Magsilay and other officers who took part in the negotiations and the rescue attempt.

Hong Kong witnesses will include seven of the surviving hostages, Hong Kong forensic experts and police bullet trajectory experts, said Au Siew-kong, a government-appointed lawyer who will question them.

In early testimony on Monday Tze Chi-kin, elder brother of slain Hong Kong tour guide Mona Tze, turned up on his own asked to describe what his brother was wearing after his body was identified. He said he refused to let Philippine coroners perform an autopsy on his brother because he didn't trust them.

"We believe the methods in Manila are backward. We were also worried that once they were done we would not be able to recognize my brother," Tze said. AP

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marie france

P-Noy: I know Garcia backers

From page A1

who was on trial for attempting a power grab in 2003, was released from jail late last year without his usual gimmick.

The President said the Ombudsman did not discuss "that topic" in referring to retired Navy Gen. Mariano Ibe. Ibbler claims that Ibbarra had told Mr. Aquino that Angelo Reyes, former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, was not Garcia's protector.

Reyes shot and killed himself last week amid the exposé of his former military budget officer that he received more than P150 million, including a P50-million windfall gift, upon his retirement in 2005.

George Rabusa, the military budget officer from 2000 to 2002, said at two Senate hearings that the money given to Reyes, two other AFP chiefs of staff (Generals Villanueva and Roy Cimatu) and other top officials, was drawn from a military slush fund—mainly from salaries for "ghost" soldiers.

Garcia was then Rabusa's boss. Rabusa also said that Reyes' wife received large amounts of shopping money on her trips abroad.

Connecting things

At [illegible] three in Reyes, Ibbler said the Ombudsman told Malacañang that the former AFP chief of staff was not Garcia's protector. The retired commodore claimed Mr. Aquino is not doing something about the information.

"Mr. Ibbler must establish how a lot of letters are and that's why he was connecting things," the President said when asked whether he knew something about what Ibbler was talking about.

"Well, I have my ideas. But having the Chief Executive, I cannot use the laws of the land and just and yourself of that is that you do not make accusations without a corresponding evidence already on hand," Mr. Aquino told reporters after leading the inauguration of new Commander-in-Chief Air Marshal Conner to Quezon City.

Getting ready

The President said a day after Reyes was buried that the Department of Justice (DOJ) would be at the forefront of filing the cases "once we are ready."

Pressed whether he had any idea about Garcia's presence, he acknowledged that since a few years back he had a general concept on what happened.

He said that he had been getting more details of the Garcia plunder case "and every facet of what transpired."

The President said it would be up to Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and members of his legal team to determine "what cases can be filed and should be filed, and then in what sequence we should be filing it, [and] affect the maximum chance of conviction so that those things will not be repeated."

Question of timing

Asked whether this means his administration was bent on doing something about the plunder case, the President said that "it's really just a question of timing."

"And we are at the stage of collecting, not just evidence but as many issues," he said. "It has gotten to the point that we really have to choose from the many cases that will be filed."

Mr. Aquino said Wednesday's lunch he duo on particular case resources, particularly personnel, from being overwrought.

The Palace has asked the Sandiganbayan to allow it to intervene and oppose the plea bargain between Garcia and the Office of the Ombudsman, which is headed by Honorable Gutierrez, an appointee of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Ombudsman said prosecution prosecutors hinged the deal, which has yet to be approved by the Sandiganbayan because the plunder case against Garcia was weak.

Under the plea bargain deal, Garcia agreed to return to the government P135 million of the P303 million he is accused of plundering. He pleaded guilty to direct bribery and money laundering, which allowed him to gain freedom by posting a P60,000 bail. Plunder is a non-bailable offense.

Preliminary investigation

De Lima said the DOJ would conduct a preliminary investigation of the draft fund even before the conclusion of the probe being done separately by the Bureau of National Defense and the Senate.

De Lima said the DOJ was still waiting for a "more extensive" affidavit from Rabusa detailing how the military budget was used to replenish the slush fund.

"Most probably we will go do it early to preliminary investigation because that was the essence of [retired Lieutenant] Colonel Rabusa told us," the Justice secretary told reporters.

Last Friday, Rabusa and his lawyer Noel Malaya submitted a supplemental affidavit to support of the former's applied to be fully covered by the DOJ's Witness Protection Program.

Name high-profile person

At the Club Filipino in San Juan City, former army auditor Brig. Gen. Mario Ibbarra challenged Ibbler to reveal the identity of the "high-profile individual" who profited from the millions of the AFP to the tune of P168 million.

"I have no idea [on the missing fund]. But then it's like to challenge him. I'm [on] him for a while that some profited. Why doesn't he spill the beans?" said Mendoza, who followed the trail of corruption involving Garcia.

He added that Ibbler could show his loser his courage by resorting to the public the identity of the individual.

Be patriotic

"I'm giving him the opportunity to be an honorable man, to be patriotic, to show his love for country. And so I challenge him now. If you know the truth, why don't you come out, as a Filipino [and] in showing your love for country," Mendoza said, addressing Ibbler.

He also said the chief not see any specific P168 million withdrawn from AFP funds. "But if you put everything together, it could be more than P168 million. But I don't really know. I can't really say to higher," Mendoza said.

Launching of website

Mendoza was at Club Filipino on Monday morning to attend the launching of the website put up by nongovernmental organizations and love supporters to drum up support for her cousin and "truth-telling" about wrongdoings in the AFP.

In a media forum on Saturday, Ibbler refused to elaborate on the identity of the person, according to him, deemed not and reverted the P168 million from the funds of the AFP.

DRENCHED IN SULU President Aquino holds a dialogue with soldiers in this rain at Camp Teodulfo Bautista, Jolo, Sulu, on Friday. The President earlier distributed food packs to 300 families displaced by recent flash floods that destroyed some P140 million worth of property in two Sulu towns. MALACAÑANG PHOTO BUREAU

SUMMER TOUR SPECIALS

Open-pacific

GOV'T WATCH

Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

PNOY AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MUST IMMEDIATELY RESOLVE THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE ARMED FORCES

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Raul T. Concepcion expresses condolences to the family of Angie Reyes.

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

a) Do you agree or disagree that PNoy must make a Presidential Directive to DSWD to Prioritize and Allocate funds for the benefit of our soldiers who die in the line of duty?

b) Do you agree or disagree that DSWD must provide funds for the education and livelihood allowance for the families of our departed soldiers?

Send your views and comments to GOV'T WATCH

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ARMM polls issue divides Aquino, kin

By GV Cabacungan

THE DEBATE on whether or not to postpone the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to August has divided not only the administration's allies in Congress but President Aquino and some members of his family.

A lawmaker who attended a forum on the ARMM on Feb. 11 said Del Monte Tinging" Cojuangco, wife of Mr. Aquino's uncle, former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. had declared in public her family's opposition to the postponement of the ARMM elections to 2013 as embodied in a bill endorsed as priority legislation by President Aquino.

The postponement would synchronize the elections with national legislative and local polls.

In the forum sponsored by the Initiative for Autonomy and Governance, Cojuangco said proposals to defer the ARMM polls and to allow the President to appoint "officers in charge" in the ARMM posts were unconstitutional and against the law.

The ARMM composed of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and the city of Marawi – gained its right to autonomy in 1996 after years of armed struggle by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and a plebiscite which ratified created autonomous charter.

The bills seeking the postponement of regular ARMM elections was filed, among others, by Rep. Arthur Ong as of the party-list group Akbayan, whom president Ronald Llamas was recently appointed by President Aquino as his political adviser.

Cojuangco said that pushing through with the ARMM polls this year would be in keeping with the Aquinos' democratic legacy.

Malacañang announced that postponing the ARMM elections was among the 27 bills certified urgent by President Aquino. At its proposed Dec. ORCs to be named by the President would be barred from running in the 2013 elections.

'Pay of soldiers half the budget for salaries'

Militant lawmaker notes huge discrepancy during GMA term

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE ANNUAL budget for salaries in the Armed Forces of the Philippines was more than double the amount actually paid to military personnel during the term of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, prompting AFP officials with a stubborn tail of up to P1.86 billion from 2002 to 2010, a lawmaker said yesterday.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares said that he was "shocked" by the discrepancy between the number of troops declared by the Department of National Defense (DND) in their budget hearings in Congress and the actual number of soldiers and personnel.

Rhinnie Monare George Rabara, a former military budget officer, said at a Senate hearing two weeks ago that the personnel services account in the annual DND budget was the main source of the slush fund from which huge sums for the personal use by the AFP chief of staff and other officials were drawn.

"Where did all this money go and in all these years did Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo know (adding) about it? If we are to add the amount of the discrepancies since 2002 to 2010, we would get a whopping P179,936,943,000. This is literally a trivial sum. What is worse though is that this is just on the personnel services. The maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and the capital outlay anomalies are not even included yet," Colmenares said.

Based on data provide by Colmenares, the DND was allocated between P92,206 billion and P96.555 billion annually from 2002 to 2010.

Colmenares said that of this amount, only P33 billion to P34 billion was used to pay the soldiers and other AFP personnel whose number ranged between 124,449 and 143,991 positions from 2002 to 2010.

Colmenares pointed out that the discrepancy between the allocated and actual use of personnel services funds ranged from a low of P67 billion in 2005 to a high of P86.26 billion in 2002.

"Major Gen. Carlos Garcia's P300-million ill-gotten wealth seems to be mere small change compared with the billions being siphoned off from the Department of National Defense budget itself. As early as the budget preparation, corruption is already involved from the very statement of the number of troops to the conversion of funds," Colmenares said.

FORMER congressman Carlos Garcia testifies at Senate hearing. At far left is Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez. Behind Garcia is not-corrupt mother Juliene Lopez.

Bunny German found guilty of estafa

From page A2

and the Ecumenical Movement.

The decision was dated Aug. 2, 2010, but was released only on Thursday because of postponements in its promulgation.

Gemma and her lawyer Harvey Bunsoy questioned the verdict, saying the evidence presented in court was sufficient to acquit her.

"They can't claim fraud ... How can I defraud him when everything I borrowed from him was returned?" Gemma told the business czar. Bunsoy said the business czar also filed cases against her in connection with her investment schemes.

"It was their call," she said, except the Laurel cases.

Bunsoy said the ruling was not yet "final and executory" He said he planned to file a motion for reconsideration of the court's decision.

"We will pursue our remedies before the law. We will consistently question that decision," Bunsoy said.

Gemma and Laurel were neighbors at San Antonio Village in Forbes Park, Makati City, and colleagues at the village association where she was the president and Laurel was the vice president.

Laurel claimed that Gemma, who has been living in her home in New Manila, had induced him to invest a total of P10,749,620 in a money-making scheme between 1995 and 1997.

He testified that Gemma told him she needed an investor to buy second goods from the Bureau of Customs at a low price for resale. He allegedly was promised his money would earn 15 percent in 10 days.

Laurel declined Gemma's offer, saying he needed a collateral first.

After some time, Gemma proposed another way to earn with Mr. Laurel. He said he was told that his P200,000 would yield a weekly rate of P2,300 for six months. He agreed to invest after Gemma showed him the contract.

Checks bounced

Laurel said all the post-dated checks given to him were later dishonored by the bank while Gemma refused to settle the bouncing checks.

He said that he later learned Gemma had no business at the customs bureau.

Gemma, however, told the court that Laurel's word investments amounted only to P5 million—not P10 million—and that these had been liquidated and settled from July 29, 1997, to August 1997.

She said she made a total payment to Laurel amounting to P6,656,577 as of Feb. 25, 1998. She told the business that Laurel had made a total of 261 million in earnings from his investment.

Gemma said she found the guilty verdict confusing, pointing out she was acquitted in another case of violation of the anti-bouncing check law filed by Laurel at Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 69.

Same evidence

"We submitted the same evidence to the two courts," Gemma said. So the business partner is confused as to why she was convicted in court the original checks issued to Mr. Laurel with the amount of P61 million. And subsequently, I presented in court the original checks issued to Mr. Laurel with the amount of P61 million. And then why why I was acquitted by (Branch 69)," she added.

"How could Mr. Laurel still sue me when he waived P61 million?" she said.

In his decision, Roman said the prosecution sufficiently proved that Gemma committed estafa while the defense failed to establish any legitimate business where the money of Laurel was invested.

"The private complainant was deprived of his property because of the false promise made by the offender, that is, by pretending to possess business," Roman said.

WHAT WENT BEFORE: 'Bunnygate'

JOSEPHINE "Bunny" German, wife of then Vice President Joseph Estrada's former media relations officer Eumir "Pat" German, was implicated in 1998 in a moneylending scheme called jackpotting.

Pyramiding is defined in the Consumer Protection Act as "a scheme whereby a person, upon condition that he makes an investment, is granted the right to recruit his profit one or more additional persons who are likewise granted such right to recruit upon the same conditions."

Profits from the scheme are primarily derived from the recruitment.

The complainants alleged that Bunny German asked them to invest a certain amount of money on a promise that it would yield a higher return.

BUNNY GERMAN

Ilan P261.7 million that investment. The scheme was estimated to have reached P800 million before it collapsed.

On Feb. 21, 1998, German left the country and flew to Frankfurt, Germany.

On March 12, German gave her first media interview. She said the pressures by several investors led by the Reyes and Matias families, her neighbors in Pasig City, caused the collapse of the scheme, which she maintained was "perfectly legitimate." German also stressed that Estrada had nothing to do with her business.

On March 25, a DOJ task force was formed to investigate German's alleged violations of the Securities Regulation Code.

German said that as early February, she told the two families she was having financial difficulties and could not continue the operations.

However, German said the Reyeses and Matias insisted that she return their capital plus interest. The Reyeses even pressured other investors to withdraw because she was running out of money, German said.

German said the two families, among other big investors, had published statements from the Securities and Exchange Commission that only granted P1B million in 1994, earned P128 million in the past two years, and the Reyes couple got P26 million out of a P75 million investment.

But German said the issuance of the other investors had been withdrawn as well. Dr. Lyn Fernandez, German's aide, was said to have lost P27 million to the scheme, while then Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and his wife together reportedly lost P75 million.

A DOJ resolution on Feb. 16, 1999, recommended the filing of charges against German on five counts of violation of the Bouncing Checks Law.

On April 8, 1999, the cases against German were filed in the Pasig City Regional Trial Court. Warrants were issued for her arrest but they could not be served since she was still in the Philippines at the time.

But on May 5, 1999, police presented her to the media. She posted a P200,000 bail bond. In her arraignment, German pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Jaszen Rosario

Source: Inquirer Archives

Trillanes flip-flops on Reyes again

From page A2

"I am naming him, Reyes," Trillanes said in that media interview. That interview was taped.

Trillanes gave that answer when he was asked about a previous television interview in which he said the same person revealed—whom he did not identify then—was framing for Garcia.

The bayonne also reported that TV interview and Reyes subsequently put out advertisements in major newspapers challenging the senator to identify the "previous" person he was referring to.

'It ain't Reyes'

After Reyes—who denied involvement in military mutinies—committed suicide last week, Trillanes made a statement that he knew Reyes was not the "previous" figure behind Garcia.

The bayonne harassed Trillanes' denial under the headline "Trillanes: It ain't Reyes."

In an interview on ANC last week yesterday, Trillanes said the bayonne's writing "is full of lies."

Talking with bayonne reporters after his ANC interview, Trillanes was categorically asked if he was denying that he had previously said that the former defense secretary and deceased Reyes was the mastermind of the perennial figure behind Garcia.

Trillanes avoided giving a direct answer, saying: "It will muddle everything again."

He said that Reyes was "the principal" behind Garcia, and added: "It should be plainly in that context."

Pressed by reporters if he was now saying that "Reyes was not the perennial person" he had mentioned to the media, Trillanes said: "I believe those statements again can be twisted ... I didn't look around."

A principal

But Trillanes said he was sticking to his other previous claims that Reyes was "one of the principals" behind Garcia and another ex-military compatriot, Jacinto Ligot.

Like Garcia, Ligot is facing plunder charges.

"But to clarify everything, I

TRILLANES: Pushback time

REYES: Cavalier treatment

maintain: my position that (the late General) Reyes was one of the principals of General Garcia and General Ligot," he said yesterday.

Trillanes pointed out that Reyes was the AFP chief of staff when Ligot was comptroller and that he was the defense secretary when Garcia was comptroller.

Garcia has forged a plea bargain with prosecutors in which a P100-million plunder case in the Sandiganbayan. This is the subject of inquiry by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Trillanes yesterday said the statements "I didn't Reyes" headline did not express his statements on Reyes' links to either Garcia or Ligot.

"It was qualified in the story, but not in the banners," he said.

Accurately reported

Trillanes also said that he did not name Eumir Pimentel and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the top officials involved in corruption.

"When I was asked if it will reach GMA, I said it's not for bridled. It's not the same as I named her," he said.

The bayonne also reported that statement accurately.

'Those who live longest have only one wife'

From page A1

kept, yesterday—Valentine's Day—was the effect of being in love on the human heart.

Cabral advised people to spare their hearts of "negative stress."

"The negative stress comes down when you are compelled to be nasty due to your partner. That's very bad for the heart," she remarked, pointing out that taking stress gives a person "positive stress."

"When you see the person you love, the reaction of the body is like it is under going a kind of positive stress," Cabral said.

"It means your heartbeat is a little faster, your blood pressure goes up a little bit, your pupils dilate, and you feel flushed. But it gives a feeling of well-being."

Longer, happier life

Cabral said positive stress was not bad for the heart.

"It is like exercise. The state of being in love is good for you. People who have stable emotional relationships live longer and are happier than those who live alone," she stressed.

Cabral also said that a person's reaction to stress was important. "You cannot control the things that are happening to you but you can control how you react to them," she said.

"A positive outlook that things will be better" would also help, she said.

Too much TV

Cabral said that negative stress was among the factors that led to heart ailments. The other factors included smoking, drinking too much and lack of physical activity.

"For a healthy lifestyle, a person should not be smoking, (should be) moderately drinking, and observing a healthy meal but, second diet. Physical activity is also necessary," Cabral emphasized.

She also has an advice for parents.

"Kids are at risk of having heart ailments because of the lack of exercise or physical activity," she said.

"Children nowadays hardly do anything else but stay indoors to watch TV, play computer games, or probably play Gameboy."

Parents should encourage them kids to play outside and engage in physical activities.

"Our kids could be taught the outdoor games we used to play as kids," Cabral suggested.

Stressful sex

Asked how a person's faithfulness was related to longevity, Cabral pointed out that men who were loyal engaged in "less stressful sex with their wives in the human than will their mistress is a model, where there's the risk of getting caught."

"Plus there is the guilt or conscience factor," she added.

According to Cabral, when a spouse is faithful, his or her partner enjoys a good family life.

"They take good care of each other and ensure that they get a healthy, well-balanced meal and make sure that they get medical checkups," Cabral said.

"Any more of giving a positive influence in the other, which is good for the body and healthy for the heart."

Military court clears 6, holds 3 for mutiny

AFP: Reyes given rites he deserved

THE ARMED forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it did not give Angelo Reyes a hero's burial but one that was in keeping with his being a former AFP chief of staff and defense secretary.

"These are ceremonies and honors due any chief of staff and former secretary of national defense regardless of the circumstances [of his death and his past circumstances]," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Mabanta Jr. explained Monday, the day after Reyes was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Reyes, who served in three other Cabinet posts in the Arroyo administration, shot himself in the chest on Feb. 8 one week after attending a Senate inquiry into military corruption where he was accused of pocketing P130 million in AFP funds.

The military does not give funeral honors to soldiers who kill themselves. A special board has to look into the circumstances of the suicide and determine if the soldier's death could be considered as being in the "line of duty" before he could be given a military funeral.

The denial of funeral honors, however, applies only to those in the active service.

Sinn Feiners was related, "It does not matter if the man gave the line of duty status. Major One of hour he died, it does not matter," Mabanta said.

Upon its arrival at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Reyes' funeral cortege was met with a 19-gun salute that is given for former chiefs of staff and and defense chiefs. Military funeral protocol calls for a 21-gun salute for heads of state. But at the graveside rites as Reyes' remains were being laid to rest, the honor guard rendered a 21-gun salute.

Despite the allegations made by former military budget officer George Rabusa, Reyes had not been found guilty by a court of any crime, Mabanta pointed out.

"He was not even cited. We believe he was due all these privileges," he said. Reena P. Pazzibugan

Julian L. Roseus, 53

JULIAN "Jun" L. Roseus Jr. died on Sunday at the age of 53.

He is survived by wife Desiree and children Gino and Andrea. His remains lie in state at the Chapel C of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation will be on Feb. 19 at 2 p.m.

The Daily Gospel

FEBRUARY 15 (Tuesday)
Feria/ Week 2
6th Week in Ordinary Time
Fr. Fr. 1 st read 1 L. Tim 4, 20 and Ps 18
The Lord will fill thee his people with peace.

1st Reading: Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10

Yahweh saw how great was the wickedness of man on the earth and that all mankind's ways the only thought of his heart. Yahweh regretted having created man on the earth and his heart grieved. He said, "I will destroy man whom I created and this time not him. He has of the earth, as well as the animals, creeping creatures and birds, for I am sorry I made them." But Noah won favour in God.

Yahweh said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I see that you are just in this generation. Of all the clean animals, you are to take with you seven of each kind, male and female, and a pair of unclean animals, a male and a female. In the same way for the birds of the air, seven and seven, male and female, to keep their kind alive over all the earth. In seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights. I will blot out from the face of the earth all the living creatures I have created." Noah did all as Yahweh had commanded. Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters covered the earth. And when seven days the waters of the flood were over the earth.

Gospel: Mk 8:14-21

The disciples had forgotten to bring more bread and had only one loaf with them in the boat. Then Jesus warned them, "Keep your eyes open and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." And they said to one another, "He says that, not having any bread."

Aware of this, Jesus asked them, "Why are you talking about not having any bread? Do you not see or understand? Are your minds closed? Have you eyes that don't see and ears that don't hear? And do you not remember when I broke the five loaves among five thousand? How many basketfuls of left-overs did you collect?" They answered, "Twelve." "And having seven loaves for the four thousand, how many wicker baskets of fragments did you collect?" They answered, "Seven." Then Jesus said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Reflection:

What do people seem to be to life? Many miracles happen in our life though we are not aware of them most of the time. So we keep on thinking and wondering what we have to do in order to see. We already have what we need in life, but we still go on asking for it. We are like a child who keeps on telling his mother he is thirsty, all the while holding a piece of bread in his hand.

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A MILITARY court yesterday cleared six more Army Scout Rangers of mutiny charges in connection with the alleged coup attempt on Feb. 24, 2006, but left three decorated former senior military officials to face a court martial.

Those left to face trial for violation of the articles of War were former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda (ret.), former Scout Rangers commander Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim (ret.) and Marine Col. Ariel Rhodel of Mike company-level Quezonists (ret.).

A seven-man special general court-martial headed by Maj. Gen. Jocelyn Guevara Jr. granted the motion for reconsideration of the lower ranking officers, clearing Maj. Aurora Aquino, Capt. Ignacio Calvez, Capt. Montano Rhodelesi, Capt. Jesus Sebastian, Capt. Jerry Rosaleones and Sergeant Capt. Dante Lutaghit.

Except for Lutaghit, who was considered retired when he ran for public office in May last year, all the rest were allowed to return to military service.

In rejecting similar motions for reconsideration by Miranda, Lim and Quezonists, the military court said the actions and public declarations of the three from 9:01 to 10: 2006, showed their intent to convince the top brass led by then Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga to withdraw support from then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Lim and Quezonists were considered resigned when they ran but lost in the May 10, 2010, senatorial race.

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Miners, government nix ban in Palawan

Rabusa asked: You knew it was wrong, why did you do it?

By TJ Burgonio

FORMER military budget officer George Rabusa has been grilled by senators on his exposé that military chiefs pocketed huge sums, but his daughter received no car from a college student.

The senior citizen said he was caught off guard by a question raised at a cadets' forum at the College of St. Benilde (CSB) in Manila last week.

"The question was rough: 'You knew it was wrong, why did you do it?'" the 52-year-old Rabusa said in an interview at CSB, recalling what the students asked him.

At his first appearance before the Senate blue ribbon committee in the past three weeks, his reply was candid: "Who wouldn't want to join us? Some PGO million fund just been turned over to me."

Rabusa, the budget officer of the Armed Forces from 2000 to 2002, had admitted to benefiting from military funds since he had been given discretion by congressmen Jacinto Ligot and Carlos Cuesta to allot funds to field commanders.

When he took over as budget officer in January 2000, Rabusa inherited from his predecessor a P20-million "slush fund" for the operational and personal use of the AFP chief of staff (known to the congressman.

NAKAPA: Toughest question yet

Very opulent

"Bongga pala dito (It's opulent here at AG)," he said of what he found out in 2001 The CSB students cheered back: "Bongga-bongga (very opulent)."

"I joined in. Life is good here," Rabusa told his audience, adding that if he did not go with the flow, he would have been replaced. "I enjoyed being the budget officer."

It was the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership. It has been abolished.

Rabusa identified three former AFP chiefs of staff—Angelo Reyes, Diomedio Villanueva and Roy Cimatu—as having pocketed huge sums in monthly and extraordinary payoffs from slush funds drawn mainly from the military budget, charges detailed by the Cimatu.

Pooled funds

In the past three hearings of the blue ribbon committee's inquiry into the plea bargain between Garcia and government prosecutors, Rabusa charted how slush funds were pooled from different units for the top brass.

Rabusa, a witness under government protection, said he had no third cuts from the funds.

Like Santa Claus

"If my boss or the chief of staff handed me an envelope, thank you. But what's heartening was that I was given discretion by Ligot and Cuesta to deal with brigade and battalion commanders [who needed funds]," he said.

Rabusa likened himself to "Santa Claus" who gave away money.

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (Class 1981), Rabusa had planned to come out in the first impeachment complaint against then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005, but got cold feet.

"The first time, I was supposed to meet the opposition at that time—Bonnie Tumers, Cha Hizadeos and our President now (former Sorsogon Rep. Benjamin Aquino III (though my classmate Boboy Sagisi [at Che-PMA]," he said.

Rabusa, however, backed out. "I got scared because I would be implicating people who were still holding positions. What will happen to me? At that time I was being mentioned. I had to change cell phone numbers every now and then," he said.

No turning back

This time, however, Rabusa said there would be no turning back, especially with the support of his family, classmates and friends, including retired Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim.

"My conscience bothered me. I've gone through many setbacks, very terrible setbacks, until I suffered a stroke. I pass this to parishioners," Rabusa said an why he came out.

In a radio interview aired on dyDW in Tacloban City, he expressed his gratitude to the soldiers in Eastern Visayas for their continued support for his crusade against misuse of funds in the military.

Rabusa said he decided to come out in the open to expose the misuse of funds of the AFP to ensure that the living conditions of the soldiers would improve.

"To our soldiers there (in Eastern Visayas), thanks for the text messages extending your support. I am doing this not only for my country but also for our soldiers whose conditions are so pitiful," he said on Monday.

Rabusa served as the commanding officer of the 43rd Infantry Battalion based in Sogod, Southern Leyte, from 2002 to 2004.

He expressed hope that the campaign would end with significance. With reports from Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas

From page A1

said in a text message.

Dumi said civil society organizations (CSOs) and environmentalist groups pushing for the closure of active mining projects must observe this process.

Environment Secretary Ramon Paje said the government favored completing ongoing mining, especially those projects that went through the process and were approved from the ground up to the national level.

"That would be consistency and constancy in law," Paje said.

Baldomero People's Network for the Environment has urged the government to not just cancel mining applications in Palawan to stop the destruction of its forests but also to stop large-scale foreign mining projects in the province and the rest of the country.

Palawan hosts several big mining projects, including those Tabu, Coral Bay and Berong.

Multibillion-dollar industry

Mining investments in the Philippines reached $955.95 million last year, according to government data. This was just 89 percent of the adjusted 2010 target of $1.2 billion.

In May last year, the then-Arroyo administration projected $1.429 billion in mining investments for 2010.

So far, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has canceled more than 100 mining applications for "substantial, lack of activity, or lack of requirements," Paje said.

The bureau, the MGB-Caraga, has said that the government plans to weather all pending mining applications by the end of 2013, after which it will bid out the available properties to fresh applications.

The government hopes that this "gradual" move due only in earnest with financial and technical capability would get hold of mining projects.

Inactive mining claims

Paje disagreed with groups claiming that the purging of inactive mining claims and the suspension of processing of new mining applications would have little effect in preserving the environment.

"We are processing sustainable mining practices, which is precisely why we want only those who can raise responsibly to operate in our country," he said.

Those who want Palawan or any other area to completely stop mining may appeal to the Mines Adjudication Board, Section 78(1), or the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan Act, or to Congress, which passed Rd. No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, Paje said.

He noted, however, that Republic Act 7942 or the mineral plan was already guiding mining and other industries in the province.

In fact, he said, large-scale mining projects were easier to monitor and were following environmental terms that are not imposed on small-scale miners.

Sustainable mining

"We have laws and we have industries. We want to strike a balance and that's why we [in the DENR] are promoting sustainable mining. It is not to our power to go against the law or to change it," Paje said.

Several mining executives welcomed the "cleansing" process in the government's refusal to accept new mining applications, but others feared it might be a "double-edged sword" for the industry.

MBC Global president Benjamin Mitanga told reporters that the suspension of new mining applications and purging of inactive ones would attract "serious investors," including financiers from international partners.

Benguet Corp. president Benjamin Philip Romualdez said miners were also concerned about the flipside of such a development—that any resulting spike in business interest would draw unwanted attention to the mining industry.

"We, active mining permits and contracts would be wealth rises valuable but then when something is more valuable, it could also make it better, more exposed to issues and controversies," said Romualdez, who is also president of the CMB.

"We in the industry will, of course, do what we can to promote good projects. We just hope to avoid unnecessary controversies. Let's just hope for the best," Romualdez said.

Mining investments are projected to surge to $3.417 billion in 2011, $3.915 billion in 2012, and $4.999 billion in 2013.

The government has set mining investments to reach $37.25 billion by 2030 as the government streamlines the process of granting permits for the industry and promotes the country as an investment haven, according to the DENR.

BIG UPSET Members of the rock group Arcade Fire throw their Album of the Year trophies in the air for "The Suburbs." REUTERS

BIG BOYS Jadon Smith (at left) and Justin Bieber perform "Never Say Never" at the Grammy Awards ceremony. REUTERS

BIG WINNERS Members of Lady Antebellum pose with their Grammy awards. AFP

Country trio upsets Eminem at Grammys

From page A1

including sang and record of the year. It marked the second consecutive year that a country act dominated the award, after Taylor Swift grabbed the Grammy glory in 2010.

Arcade Fire denied Lady Antebellum a clean sweep by winning the event's top prize—album of the year.

In a year dominated by pop, R&B and hip-hop acts, few pundits had given the distantly indepen- dent Montreal-based act any chance of taking the top prize. However, the band had two earlier wins.

The rock band was also shocked to hear its name called by presenter Barbra Streisand that the Arcade Fire members delivered an unscheduled performance to close the show.

The band was honored for its album "The Suburbs," which topped the U.S. and Canadian charts last year without the support of a major label. It was the first time a rock band had won the award since U2 in 2005.

Tears of joy

The members of Lady Antebellum said they were left in tears backstage by their unexpected wins, which also included duet awards in the country field, all generated by their album "Need You Now."

"We'll probably never have one of those moments ever again in our career," singer Charles Kelley said. "You're not going to see the Grammys ever again. We know that, we're realistic. So we're gonna try to soak it up."

The winner of the best new artist prize was also a shock, as American Idol superstar Scotty Mc- Creery took the honor over a pair of red-hot Canadian idols. Justin Bieber and Drake were home- ranging buried after tour and live appearances respectively.

Spalding, 26, was the first jazz artist nominated for best new artist in 33 years. But she is not exactly a newcomer, having released her breakthrough album in 2008.

Spalding told reporters that she hoped Bieber's fervent fans would not be too aggrieved by their hero's losses.

"When this is all over we're all colleagues again, but like we were before," she said. "He's very young. He's a talented young man. He's going to do his own things in the future, and he has just all his getting his years. Close and their teeth into."

While Bieber-mania was in attendance, the teen sensation himself was cheerful backstage after the show—perhaps because the day's other big winners were not in the room.

Rapper Drake, whose the Grammys were held, in dramatic fashion, entered in an egg as dancers carried him to the stage. When she "hatched," she seemed to have tumed into Madonna, circa 1987, as she suffered across the stage to her new song "Show This Way."

The pop singer and rapper Jay-Z won three awards each, both of them beating Eminem along the way.

Lady Gaga was honored by her fellow "The Fame Monster," and received two awards for her song "Bad Romance."

Jay-Z's lead included a pair to the top field for his duet with Alicia Keys on "Empire State of Mind," a love letter to New York.

Best rap album

Eminem received Grammys for best rap album ("Recovery") and rap solo performance ("Not Afraid").

Riding a natural high after a successful comeback album recounted his near-fatal struggle with addiction, he had been expected to win Grammys with the 12,000 music industry insiders who vote for the Grammys.

He has now lost the album of the year category three times, and he has yet to win an award for record or song of the year. His career haul stands at 13.

British rock band Muse made its Grammy debut performance and won best rock album for "The Resistance," beating out Pearl Jam, Neil Young, Tom Petty and Jeff Beck.

Other British winners included duo La Roux for best electronic album, from Mumford for best metal performance and Rudimental for best R&B category.

108 categories

The event honored artists in 108 categories. Other multiple winners included classical producer David Frost with four awards, British guitarist Jeff Beck and soul singer-songwriter John Legend with three each, and Kiss, Bob Seger Usher and rock band the Black Keys with two each.

The Beatles' complete remastered studio recordings were honored as historical album. The Beatles' last was for the remixed "Love" album, in the compilation soundtrack and surround-sound categories.

Paul McCartney won best solo rock vocal performance for "Helter Skelter" on "Good Evening New York City."

Dan Dee Bridgewater won for best jazz vocal album for her album "Eleanora Fidelity. In other best jazz instrumental album category she has James Moody won over Chick Corea.

Japanese guitarist Tak Matsumoto won for best pop instrumental album. Reports by Jean Aw and Reuters

'Brain drain' worse, study shows

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE 'BRAIN drain' has worsened with the number of Filipino science and technology (S&T) workers leaving the country to work abroad jumping by 144 percent from 1998 to 2007, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) said yesterday.

Lydia V. Canto, DOST Science Education Institute (SEI) officer in charge and deputy director, said an SEI study on the migration of S&T workers showed that the number of S&T workers who left rose annually from 9,857 in 1998 to 24,502 in 2007.

She said the study highlighted the "grim scenario" the exodus of S&T professionals would have on the research and development (R&D) sector in the Philippines.

"We need most of our S&T and R&D professionals to be here in our country to provide the 380 days of our research and development agenda," Canto said in a statement.

"Our country currently needs at 145 R&D personnel per million Filipinos which is very below the thirteen recommendation of 380 needed for economic development. We are optimistic our S&T professionals will feel the needs of our country and the R&D outputs shall not only serve us through their hearts," she said.

Canto said the number of S&T professionals leaving the country was highest in 2006 at 24,502, followed by 2008 (24,038), 2007 (16,771) and 2001 (17,756).

The highest increase was recorded in 2000-2002 when from 13,146, 17,756 left the following year, for a spike of 35 percent.

Canto said the number of S&T professionals leaving the country was "drastic on the rise" for the entire period covered by the study except from 2001 to 2002 which saw a decrease of 11.06 percent "as the economy improved even One period of time."

Investigation relays, most of the S&T professionals who left were nurses and midwives, who accounted for 53.23 percent (or 9,451) of those who left in 2001, Canto said.

Engineers came in second with 21.82 percent, or around 3,200 engineers, leaving to work abroad in 2008, she said.

Coming in third were health professionals—dentists, doctors, veterinarians and pharmacists—who made up 9.20 percent (838) of those who left in 2004, Canto said.

She said the study also showed that from 1998 to 2009, more female S&T migrants left the country than males, and this peaked between 2006 to 2008 (see memo #2).

"Cross-study there were more female S&T migrants than males across the years, which are particularly pronounced in 2001, when above three quarters of S&T workers who left the country were women," she said.

Canto also said that, based on the 2010-2011 Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum, the Philippines ranked 99 out of 139 countries in terms of availability of scientists and engineers.

"Though it is laudable that our S&T professionals seem to be sought after, it is a sad fact that are not being there. We hope that we can find ways to make more of them stay in the country and use their talents here," she said.

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INQUIRIES WELCOME

Vizconde files another motion

LILIBO Vizconde yesterday filed a second motion for reconsideration asking the Supreme Court to set aside its ruling acquitting Hubert Webb and company in the Vizconde massacre.

Vizconde said the high court ruling should be declared null and void because Justice Roberto Abad, who wrote the decision, did not disclose that his son Mark Hudson Castro, the husband of his daughter Annabelle Abad Webb, worked for the former for Jesus Christ Corporation.

Vizconde said Corpus was a prisoner before release in the case and a friend of the Webb family. The high court had dismissed Vizconde's first motion for reconsideration.

"In the mere fact that Associate Justice Abad penned the decision without disclosing his link, direct or indirect, with the Webbs, it is submitted that the decision acquitting Webb et al. is clouded with serious doubt, was a tainted judgment, and consequently is null and void," Vizconde said in his motion dated Feb. 10.

"If the judgment is null and void, to double jeopardy so before," he said.

Vizconde focused on Abad's failure to disclose his connection to Corpus, Webb's former law firm—JSJ Lores Chit, Mercado and Segovia.

"Subject must inhere to the highest tenets of ethical conduct... like Caesar's wife, a judge must not only be pure but above suspicion," Vizconde said.

He said the least Associate Justice Abad could have done was "declared from writing the majority decision and let another justice, who is free from the slightest link to the Webbs, to write the pronouncement."

"The undersigned finds it hard not to entertain the idea that the independence of the court was compromised."

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INQUIRER

OPINION

Doing a Mubarak

THE MALACAÑANG communications group has banged the drums loudly and surrounded the release of President Aquino's legislative agenda with much fanfare and a halo of self-congratulation and canonization. But the substance of the agenda has been found wanting: it has not lived up to its hype. Indeed, it can be said that the Palace has impressed itself on the agenda: it is propaganda, rather than

EDITORIAL agenda.

Noticeably missing is the proposed Freedom of Information (FOI) act, which the last Congress failed to pass. This is the second time that the President has ignored the bold, bespoke grand declarations during the 2010 presidential campaign that he would mother corruption and provide a more transparent regime in which graft could be exposed and prosecuted, and despite positive remarks about the FOI, which the former House of Representatives killed, the President did not make any mention of it in his first State of the Nation Address last July.

Last November, Malacañang had indicated it was backing the crafting of a new measure but aired concerns over whether transcripts of meetings should be made public. Perhaps we should have read those two developments as writing on the wall for the measure, but since hope springs eternal, the public and the press have hoped all along that the President would remain true to his campaign promise and give a hearty push for the campaign and certify the bill as urgent. But the hope, it now appears, was baseless. Malacañang has reneged on the President's promise, notwithstanding as it is with concerns that the FOI would be used against it, the same issue that so worried the former administrations of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that her powerful cabinet secretary, Ed Ermita, led Speaker Prospero Nograles, ironically a human rights lawyer during the Marcos dictatorship, refused to pass the bill, by the simple act of 130 congressmen absenting themselves from the last session of Congress. Is there any essential difference between that act and President Aquino not including the FOI in his legislative agenda?

The killing of the FOI bill comes paradoxically enough amid the pro-democracy wave that has swept Egyptian strongman Hosni Mubarak out of power and the Philippine congressional inquiry into the corruption in the Armed Forces top brass and comptrollership. Mubarak and his military dictatorship had perpetrated themselves in power by stamping out press dissent and imprisoning critics. The critical mass that overwhelmed him last week could not have occurred if not for the work of journalists and other freedom lovers who defied his draconian press restrictions that barred them from public information and documents.

The example of Egypt is our own. It's the example founded by the more primordial John Peter Zenger Freedom of Trial, a revolution founded on freedom of information and dissent. Information is the harbinger of revolutions.

Something less spectacular perhaps but just as dramatic has been happening in our own shores: the investigations into corruption in the AFP comptrollership and the apparent complicity of the military top brass. Let us remember that the inquiry was sparked by the controversy over the plea bargain which was struck between retired comptroller Carlos F. Garcia and the Ombudsman over the former's alleged plunder; a plea bargain that enraged a nation that sees the case as open-and-shut. The plea bargain would not have been credibly challenged if not for former state auditors and military budget officers shrewdly documents that prove that high military officials have, indeed, been raiding the public coffers for their own self-aggrandizement and the enrichment of their families, documents that should have been open to the public had there been an FOI law.

We should realize that the FOI bill is part of wide-ranging reforms enshrined in the 1986 Constitution, the charter that the people overwhelmingly ratified to reflect the democratic legacy of Edsa, the same revolution whose spirit continues to charge the world, as shown by the iconic shift in power in Egypt over the weekend. The FOI is a necessary step in the fulfillment of a constitutional provision (Article III, Section 7 of the Bill of Rights) which recognizes the people's right to information on matters of public concern. But the provision needs to be enabled by legislation. Alas, by not including it in his legislative agenda, President Aquino has disabled the constitutional movement toward freedom and democracy. He himself has done a Marcos, an Arroyo, a Mubarak.

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Papyrus wisecrack

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

LONG BEFORE they acquired Hosni Mubarak's dictatorship, Egyptians used a weapon that I'll spitter-mistakenly-define wisecrack: "New Society" laughter. "Every joke against Big Brother is a lie in the beginning," novelist George Orwell wrote.

Our learners joke last Malacañan president Marlinky Pinoy-nating Ugoy-Ugoy-Gerango. "I bet how do you always test with 98 percent of the questions? I wish I could get consider anesthetic."

"No sense," Mubarak responds. "At post-zone elections, I'll send my people to help you."

As the Russian-American oppositeley, Mubarak has advisors fly to Moscow to help Putin. They received historically. The Russians were a 89 percent candidate—for Mubarak.

There's a Filipino version of that gag arrogant electorate. Top boss Aimee Ty Cardinal Luis Cardinal Tagle, Commissioner Leonardo Sixto Jr.'s son to him. "Leonie—if you had cast the papal conclave, I would have been elected Pope."

Thinking fun of oppressive authorities has been an element of Egyptian culture since the pharaohs," Imamh El Adnani writes. "One 4,000 year-old barb, on papyrus, joked that the only way you'd get the king to him was to setup naked girls in fishing nets. . . .

Throughout history, dictators, kings and religious, jokes are universal icebreakers. . . . They almost always remain the same: Our leaders are idiots, our country's a mess, but at least we're in on the joke together."

Hilarious. And, from history's log, too, especially when pressed to the wall. Under cronies, jokes express a stunted people's fears and aspirations. Urging "Sayan ka" or cracking a joke about the "New Society" invited a hearing or detention, often worse. Both.

"We remained when rigorous bourgeoisie-like satire sought outlets: that political jokes are a serious business," Mompolit noted. Bayanihan, Ha Ha Ho!) "We have so much class, as an imagined."

Remember the gag about untutored and he mongrels seeking visas at the US Embassy, off Roxas Boulevard? "Tutorial law has obviously been good for you," the screamy visa said to the other dog. "So why do you want a visa?" The reply: "I want to bark."

As similar fears surfaced in Egypt. The US Embassy, in clear version, is insured off Tahrir Square. And 1981 emergency decrees replace elected law.

"Egyptians love humorous when openly challenging the regime," Ibrahim El Gendaldy assistant to the foundation a year before the revolt. "So, they resort to jokes, mixing bitterness with humor." Poles, Czechs and Russians did likewise. Filipinos wielded wisecracks as a replete during the Japanese occupation and under martial law, Marcos-style.

A running European premiere story told Mubrak that his bubble was collecting under shoes his administration. "And when it float he ordinary's inability?" he asked.

Bewildered people who make jokes about us," Ibrahim replied.

Bewilderingly about similar abuses like corruption, nepotism, suppression. Cautionous apart, jokes reflect class tensions.

Ibrahim Mubarak invites a cartoon Asian minister's opulent residence. "I know your official salary," Imelda whispers. "How can you afford all these?" The minister leads Imelda to the terrace and asks: "See that bridge between there and there, stretching for miles?" Imelda gasps and nods. "Twenty percent," the minister explains.

A joke lists Imelda loses the minister as her even more lavish residence. "I know your salary," the minister whispers. "How can you afford all these, plus a number of chopper?" Imelda salutes her guest to the terrace. "See that bridge between there and there?" she inquires. The minister gasps and asks, "What bridge?"

"One hundred percent," Imelda replies.

That reminders the point of a dying Mubarak. "What would Egyptians do without me?" he frets. "Don't worry," cronies assure him. Egyptians are resilient and, in their jargon, "invent our stones." After a brief illness, Mubarak leaves a presidential throne getting his son Alaa a monopoly over trade in cement.

Ibrahim says a frustrated Filipino version of Internet Ghost in his story, "Of Loupbars and Red Sea Cooks." Ghost dreaded the coming 2016 presidential election. Then a Catholic bishop-friend announced that our may election as friend-ridden.

"Filipino made parental jokes for possible cadaveric offers .... Is it possible to creatively use humor as a means of purging grief?"

"Of course," Ibrahim replies. "Hope can do loss-of-jokes. There was this captain who asked Ferdinand Marcos to promote him to general. 'Answer one question, Captain,' the dictator said. 'How much is two plus two?' Earlier, US President Ronald Reagan had same question for answering 'Four.'

"Simple, his President," the captain replied. "Two plus two equals four—and all for you, Sir." Now your right hand, General," a beaming Marcos replied.

With 310,000 officers and men, and sophisticated weaponry, Egypt is the most militarily powerful country in the region. Egyptian Emergency Law makes it a crime to "insult the armed forces." So the military does not, with it also use wisecracks?

Remember the Filipino inmate in the second ring? "You're in the army, right?" he asked the man with the crew-cut, next to him. "Yes," was the reply. His fellow-inmate beat, the former inquired, "Is the navy?" Again, no. "Is the national police?" he persisted. "If fishermen have retained, the man snapped: "No!" "Then, get off my foot," the former retired.

"In repairing political jokes are acts of definance," notes the book "No Laughing Matter." And "Under himself constantly used ridicule against his enemies among: he Pharisees of his time," noted Bishop Carol.

(Email: jamother.mdo@gmail.com)

Questions

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

MISSY MISSYO is plainly not comic Antonio Tuiliano. "Why don't they just proceed with their investigation and see where it leads us? If Tuiliano has suspicions that he can substantiate with concrete evidence, he should air that in the Senate investigation which, less it be forgotten, is an act of legislation. (Tuiliano should remember that the great power of parliamentary immunity comes with parliamentary courtesy)."

These remarks were a reaction to Tuiliano saying last week that the Senate inquiry into Garcia's case could go so high up as Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. This was the prompt for Arroyo's idea of holding a senatorial "Good Luck."

Well, at the very least Missy Arroyo would be better advised to avoid making references to the issues of legislative proceedings, or the proper conduct of them, in public. Or else she will soon become a congressman only in aid of stupidity or senility. Only a stupid or grossly senile person would find his credentials to represent this country's security guards called in question.

Then, with great temerity, Arroyo counts parliamentary courtesy. For parliamentary courtesy begins with being courteous to the courts, not to other parliamentarians, you wise-ass cum. That Missy Arroyo can be the poster-girl for the opposite of any congressional service, other than the argot acronym—who knew you to be marginalized in this country—is not being courteous to the courts, it is torturing them. To be courteous to the courts is the first to be ashamed to the depths of his being for being there, as an executive agency head, at all.

But I myself am even more hellish about this of her to pin down Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to this. Of course Neri Colmenares has a point when he says: "It is impossible for such a large amount of money to be disbursed by AFP chiefs of staff without asking this question: What was the role of the Commander in Chief, being the top official in the military hierarchy?" But my own point is simply this: Why spend so much effort on something so relatively small that it just so easy to prove when you can spend less effort on something so patently huge that it is so much easier to prove?

GMA is indictable for the bigger crimes, and the more "provable" for them. The evidence is crushing all over the place like mangoes.

It's up to pin down GMA to Garcia and you. And, you give her an excuse to abuse prosecution when you make her for other things. Indeed, for more than that, you bound GMA for her corruption of the Comelec, for her corruption of the Supreme Court, for her corruption of the AFP, you destroy Garcia crimes to petty larceny. That is not insult to injury, that is insult of degrading to the AFP as to indict its officers, particularly on the military soldiers who are left bereft by it. That is foolish to appreciate the scale of amounts of GMA and her cabal, which makes things like Garcia's alleged peanuts look like lunyas, or loose change.

I don't know if the Garcia case tends all the way up to GMA. Maybe it does. But I don't see why you should you all your eggs, or most of them—and they are so huge as the legislative inquiry into the pork barrel scam is—in one basket. The point is to bound GMA for her real crimes and that can only be done not by a Senate hearing, not by the Ombudsman, not by any anti-graft agency but by a Truth Commission, but of those she not indictable or as rapists in the petty or narrow sense of pillage, although there is nothing petty or narrow about the rapes she and her cabal carried out from a horrendously impoverished country which makes the genocidal practice of ripping off the least resources known to human, the extraction of the entire oil corruption in the all-encompassing sense of the perversion of the national instruments of society, not within a nation-state but in entire countries, entire regions.

Her crime is not just stealing, along with the generals, the money that ought to have gone to the AFP rank and file, or even misappropriating it, the crime is stealing the souls of the generals, along with those of the legislators, Malacañang, judges and courts, civil society and media leaders—or whatever they had left of it to start with. Her crime is not just stealing from the citizens money that belonged to them, such as by untolled tongues and bullets in the MRR deal, although Jobo de Venecia thought it was really stealing from him, he sensed the loss by the principle of "finders, keepers," her crime is stealing his soul.

How hard can it be to prove these things? How hard can it be to indict them with the testimony of people you can persuade or any show them.

Of course the Supreme Court has thumbed down the Truth Commission. Which even in part as a government could fashion by a stage the crook indicted the Truth Commission: it's not an ordinary anti-graft body it is an extraordinary anti-crime body, an anti-law-to-tyranny. It is not there to make people say, "Here are go again." It is there to make people say, "Never set again." But I don't see why the Supreme Court should have the last say on it. I don't see why GMA should be able to usurp, or find cover, instead of it. I don't see why the Truth Commission should not even now be hiring from the ashes like ephemera and flying to the neighbor refuge.

Here is the time to do it. The rumors in Egypt are a good reminder of how the people can sense obstacles from their path when they are united. The 25th anniversary of Edsa is a good occasion of how one people can hold terror, tyranny and decay—that is the real corruption a nation produces—when they put their minds to it. And Angelo Reyes is a good reminder of the one question we should be really asking our despicable and sick leaders.

Why aren't you dead yet? Bakit hindi pa kayo nagpapakamatay?

Fixing farm finance

LAST WEEK, something that hadn't happened in 40 years happened. Over a hundred leaders and stakeholders from the various links of the entire value chain in the agriculture and fisheries sector gathered for two days in hotspots in the entire country over half. There were large suppliers, farmers and fishers, traders, transporters, bankers and processors coming from government, private business, NGOs, bankers' and fishers' organizations, and academe. All welcomed the rare opportunity for all the key players in a value chain to gather for the very first time in the Philippine economy to dialogue and address a collective appreciation of the problems that have held the sector back, and kept small farmers and fishers poor through the decades.

Before, people from the same link in the value chain—growers, traders, processors and so on—would talk endlessly among themselves, and to the end get nowhere. This time, the Agriculture and Fisheries 2020 Summit convened by the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries (COCAF) and the DA-BAR (Bureau of Agricultural Agriculture) sought to change all that. By bringing everyone together to highlight common constraints while addressing points of contention between and among themselves, there was far greater chance of reaching consensus on what needs to be done, and how to do it.

I focus here on one critical area which has consistently eluded investments through the years, making profits accessible to small farmers. In any size in business would know, financing is the lifeblood of any business. It is the key ingredient to end to productivity, and productivity is in turn end to inputs. Our seeds quality needs, fertile and cost effective pest control to get more out of agricultural land. And these things cost money, which makes credit to finance working capital the most critical input for the farmer.

So why has government done all these years? Rather than focus on this critical linkage, it has meant to go downstream and pursue huge sums in attempts—ultimately proven ineffective and unsuccessful—to provide seeds, fertilizer and other inputs directly to farmers. Why were they unrewarded? First, these were mainly schemes were fraught with corruption; I need not say more. Second, in the midst of economies of scale that is necessary, purchasing opportunities for wholesale profit, input subsidy programs were done through centralized large-scale procurement of fertilizers and seeds was always suitable for area needed in all farm areas. Third, such input subsidies only distorted the markets for these commodities, leading to costly inefficiencies elsewhere in the system. Fourth, because time in needs of input subsidy is spent on providing such private goods that are best handled by private markets, to the detriment of public goods like road transport and telecommunications, irrigation facilities and possessing facilities.

To me, a "strategic intervention" is one which must desist, substitute to a lot of other problems would fall into place. To my mind, fixing long standing problems with input credit would very well be the most strategic intervention that can be made in our farm and fishery sectors. Aside from improving farmers' access to inputs according to their particular needs, it would free them from bondage to traders who have historically been their main financiers, for lack of other options they've been forced to borrow from them. In effect, these traders perform a valuable function to fill the void that failures in the government and the financial sector have left all these years: the having more financially empowered farmers is ultimately to everyone's business, traders and processors included.

So what do we see? Some participants to the Antipolo gathering made a passionate call for subsidized credit for small farmers, denouncing the market interest rate "paradigm" as a failure. What they are really asking for is a policy decision for the general taxpayers to subsidize the credit needs of farmers. I see at least two arguments for this One, as implied above, the massive subsidies government has been giving among through private goods like seeds and fertilizers, simply has been a waste of resources. Now, inasmuch as farmers ultimately feed all of us taxpayers, they deserve support—but all of us. Australia, the arguments for market-based interventions as much a "paradigm" or ideology but rational necessity for so long as basic credit is to be handled by the normal institutions, as it truly well should be. Government's credit record on direct dispenser of credit has been a miserable failure). And we cannot expect farmers to grow from hand-to-mouth. The failure was not because of the concept, but because of the way it was done. Subsidized credit has been the bedrock of the Grameen Bank and the limited failed to provide these inexpensive credit delivery mechanisms to farmers. We can, however, find creative ways to access the subsidy through banks so that they will accept fellow-bank rates from farmers. And so, subsidized interest rates on the part of the government credit delivery mechanisms will remain the big hurdle. Meanwhile, we have also failed to make farmers profitable and bankable—line fixing credit could very well be the way to fix this thirteen-and-egg problem.

The phenomenal growth of microfinance programs in non-agriculture countries—which, by the way, are mainly based on market interest rates—suggests that the "technology" of microcredit encourages another the way to go in responding to the needs of small farmers. It is my conviction, to my case, facing farm finance should be the subject of a multi-stakeholder summit of the sorts.

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An unusual Valentine's

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WAS an unusual way to spend Valentine's Day, but especially for a bachelor whose search for love—or a romance more—is followed closely by the media and whose dating behavior is more or less public property. Sen. Bongbong Marcos's moves and moves, for signs of imminent commitment or break-up.

The bachelor we're talking about is of course a Marcos, whose name is all magnified, and his efforts to supposedly find a wife, a partner, are the way any ordinary contraption now does. So what was he doing on the morning of Feb. 14 in the East Avenue Medical Center, wearing the protuberant hospital's own trademark hospital gown?

Lesser-mortals are just one of the many "services" this new clear, as Pilary good-naturedly complained to the media covering him, got in the way of his plans to take advantage of special occasions like Valentine's Day.

Part of the cost of AMC facilities was "breakfast," described by Dr. Maria Mercedes, AMC head of medical services, as a "full-way home" for children diagnosed with cancer who had been sent to the therapeutic feeding or undergoing treatments, the children with cancer can have any given dishes "with their hearts and tongues," at Valentine's Day, the menu was special as a drug reflected Valentine's theme and have a dark mysterious.

With a friend and donor of Talisay volunteer, I entered the hall way house within the President's residence to greet volunteers. What we found were a large table of young people painted in paint colors with large colorful art works adorning the walls.

Inside from the reception area, the kitchen, pantry and dining room, and a large inside floor, are bedrooms for children with cancer, their parents, some kind, both segregated among young female children, young male children, school-age female children, school-age male children, female teenagers and male teenagers.

DR. MERCEDES, a pediatric oncologist who had dreamed of setting up a half-way home for children with cancer for many years, says Talisay volunteer will also allow the young residents to continue their education through home-schooling while staying at the center. When's more, their guardians will also be given training in livelihood skills so that they can support their families once the children's treatment is over and they go home to their provinces.

Talisay volunteer is an offshoot of "Children," also a half-way home for children with cancer, which I visited when I went to them to check on the donations were asked to vacate their former quarters in the PGH Compound which had been donated only for babies/kids. When Dr. Mercedes proposed a temporary site—Talisay, which should serve the children well while they undergo treatment for their deadly disease. And when I asked some staff where the hospital management was, they said it was "over on the other side of the complex." "Eun bruma is such a long building," one pointed out.

As far as I'm concerned, if Dr. Mercedes, who should know the health needs of children with cancer, says that Talisay should have been still adequately serve the young folks' needs, then who are we to question her wisdom? Talisay volunteer is supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and PCSO GM Margie Juico entering those growing the Valentine's Day opening, and a raft of dinners and volunteers. But Talisay volunteer still needs all the support of people of goodwill.

Was it a revolution?

NEWSSTAND

Juhn Nery

I PROMISED a second column on the dismal economy as the smallest by which we should measure the success of the Aquino presidency. But because, especially since it seems up increasingly more interesting now. Events in the daily newsstand), but the sweep of history in Egypt and across the region is irresistible. Perhaps it is only a normal reflection towards retiree about the nature and legacy of Edsa 1986 (one we remain due for another day).

Where is Egypt? The best in yesterday's editorial suggests a mixture of Filipino can assume as we enter in the struggle of people power in Egypt and an adapter was world's 25th anniversary of people power in Edsa. "For a Filipino, to recall the glory days of the 1986 revolution is to relive the two weeks for the triumphant 15-day revolution in Egypt that ousted Hosni Mubarak the other day. It is to understand the events in Egypt on our own terms, using our own categories, through the prism of our own history. And it is also to claim Edsa as very again."

Consider this column, then, as an experiment in memory.

As far as I am still, nobody between us call the Egyptian uprising a revolution. The word is used repeatedly, and in many senses. In the methodological for a very personal sense the anti-Mubarak protests were organized through Facebook and broadcast through Twitter; in the words of the world's leaders, such street rallies witnessed people and the presence of very many women and quite a number of children in the protests were largely unprecedented. In the political (the ouster of Mubarak, who controlled Egypt since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981, was the only demand that all protesters agreed on—and the basic achievement of the protests).

Above all, it was *convulsion* in the factual sense. The Egyptian protesters poured into the streets [not just of Cairo, but of Alexandria and other cities too] in the growing awareness that they were in fact making a revolution. Reports interviews with their theorists, the Google executive who helped organize

AMONG those aspiring for the post of chancellor of UP Diliman is Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, director of the UP Center for Women's Studies and a professor in the College of Social Work and Community Development.

In a paper she prepared to present her reasons for applying for the demanding and exciting job, Claudio-Estrada—"Dr." Claudio only for her "sincere answer" to those who ask why she is vying for the post is "because I love UP." That is such a cliché that it is almost a political gaffe to voice it, she muses. But it is the most sincere reason with students, alumni, colleagues, staff and UP residents we say this to each other unconsciously. Our school is a mind in the context of a lot for our country's future," she explains.

Her "love affair" with UP began from birth, she notes, since her parents, both UP professors, moved into the Diliman campus when she was just a few weeks old. It was also in UP where she took her high school, college and undergraduate and post-graduate studies, including her Ph.D.

All for love plans should she manage to clinch the post of chancellor. Claudio says she won't claim to be someone that subdivides academic freedom and excellence and nationalism, a community of scholars governed by the mores of respect and collegiality, and one that guarantees the rights of its members. She promises as well to "bring my social science and community development perspective" to the office.

Claudio-Estrada has for well over a decade dipped in one way or another in the government's history and involvement in the women's movement. I welcome particularly the possible accession of a feminist to this position, and I am sure she will guide school's male-dominated power and leaders in her analysis of issues to the post of UP Diliman chancellor. I hope the UP Board of Regents give Claudio's views the serious and favorable consideration it deserves.

Complicated

A YEAR ago on Valentine's Day a girl spent half a day with her gay best friend and the other half with her special friend. That night she was with neither one of them.

That is a story I know very too well, because the characters are people I used to know.

The girl is, was, Anonymous. She could not make decisions by herself. She was all kinds of complicated—someone with contrasting characteristics.

YOUNG BLOOD

Krystal Gale Crossnode

Her best friend, A, was the one who got the praise of his parents and a treasure to his friends. He was an achiever in academics, with ranked subjects and skills. He walked a straight line and you could not clearly where he is headed. He was an ideal friend.

He appreciated Anonymous. He was A1 optimistic. He was free optimist. In life it seems he didn't plan for the future; he enjoyed the share and the adrenaline rush. The path he took was full of diversity, as well as surprises.

Then 9th, 14. A and A were together on their class field trip. The class took a bus which took them to an aquarium where they would stay for the night.

Division way back, the bus broke down. As A and B stood outside in the house of a friend who lived nearby. There they ate lunch without eating spoons and forks. Then they listened to music and talked, said it was a time for Anonymous with B.

It seemed to be the girl in the plane where she was meeting her special friend.

It rained A alone her day, and it rain. It he looked like the father she saw earlier that day. They had a good laugh about it and then decided to watch a movie.

When the movie was done, they went to check out the exhibit of the bat Center in the mall. After which they are—and really ate a lot.

After nothing else to do, they decided to take a stroll. When B saw a cotton candy stall, he asked A to buy him some. A refused, saying they were still full. B said it was fine, but A felt guilty and bought some anyway.

When B insisted that it was getting late, he brought A to the national where the mall take the bus home.

When she reached home, she was still feeling romantic about her day. She decided to text her best friend. A asked how her day went and it answered that it was her best friend she's Day. A, then, didn't text back for a long time.

The mood of their exchange changed when A continued something B had never expected. He said he thinks he was falling for her. And from that moment their relationship changed.

To make a long story short, B couldn't decide whom to pick between her best friend and her special friend. A and A differed apart because the original argument A never the same arises another factor is introduced into it. A and B drifted apart because things simply did not work out for them.

When I tried to recall the real reasons for these sad endings, I realized one thing B never addressed. She resisted the loss of both models.

There are only two reasons why a girl can't make a choice. First, if both choices are not to her liking. Second, if she seems to favor both. For B, it was the second reason that led to her indecision.

After a year, I can see A, B and B and their relationships more clearly. For A and K, their friendship was like a pre-planned field trip. Everything was in order, everything was predictable. They knew where they were headed.

On the first, they were just saying opposite and they were drawn to each other because of their differences. And as their destination, whether it was an aquarium or some place else, they looked at things from similar perspective because they had a lot in common.

When the two encountered a mechanical problem, or when they had to solve problems, they found a way to overcome the problem because there's what they liked to do: to look out for each other.

When they had lunch because style, it exemplified basically—they could have a meaningful conversation about their differences. And the encouragement. It is where she was drawing Kingston his luxury brush, he was saying he would continue to have to support her.

For B and K, on the other hand, getting to know each other was like making plans for a day. You are the date, but what you will do is a mystery. It's like going into a movie.

That is why they had a hard time connecting each other very well but knowing enough about the other to feel comfortable in each other's company.

Just as they watched scenes in that film, they watched each other's personality unfold while waiting patiently for what would come next. In the end, they were left with a sense of incompleteness.

A, the eerily ideal friend, and B, the free spirit—it seemed these both to keep for sanity because she was all kinds of complicated.

I encouraged how things can change a lot in a year's time. I rarely see the two guys in school. To see they are closer to strangers than friends now.

K, on the other hand, I had not seen in a long while—until last night. As I was about to go to bed, I saw her in the mirror. She told me I still owed B a movie credit.

Krystal Gale Crossnode, 18, is a second year BS Mass Communication student at the University of the Philippines in Cebu.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the past year you're working and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

A HUSH

"When I say saying is a just did what is right, what should be done. I am not a party to anybody's agenda. It is my sole conviction, and it is conscience is my call as a Christian and as an author of this republic."

—former associate justice Adolfo Azcuna, justifying before a congressional hearing on the plea bargain agreement with former AFP comptroller Carlos Garcia

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This vow is for Doc Gerry

LETTERS

BS, GSIS? Ortega has been content and to be seen in the benches for which he suffered his life.

So we do so, we vow that the ideals of freedom and the truth, which he emulated in life, do not die with him but will flourish in the service of the people's right to know.

Neither shall we rest until we find justice for Doc Gerry's death and for the 140 other colleagues murdered before him since 1986. We demand that government seize all investigating agencies to get their act together and conduct a unified, coordinated and comprehensive investigation, leaving no stone unturned until all done to ground, especially to masterminds, are caught and punished.

We demand that government secure Doc Gerry's family and all witnesses, and provide them with all the assistance they deserve.

Lastly, we demand, in light of persistent reports of a possible escalation of violence against our colleagues in Palawan, that government guarantee their safety and not sit in the benches and all crimes. If any more blood is spilled, we will hold government accountable.

—**RENATO PABLO,** secretary general, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP); **ILEE ROTAIRO,** executive director, Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD)

Pensioner feels fresh wind of change at GSIS

THERE'S a fresh wind of change at the Government Service Insurance System, and we like it!

For the first time, a letter I sent to the GSIS, requesting for the recomputation of my retirement benefits, got a response. And for the first time since I have been retiring every month, it was not just a prestige response, it was courteous and very informative. It was so unlike the GSIS past responses in letters to the beguiler—the responses were condescending, if not rudely worded, and were meant more to give pensioners "in our place" than to help us.

Thanks to the new management of the GSIS, we now feel that the GSIS is truly serving us—in keeping with President Aquino's mandate that "Kapit-tuko (people) ang hindi kaya!" For the first time, we feel that the GSIS is there to listen and respond to our needs, not the other way around...in keeping with the sacred "service" to us none, Government Service Insurance System.

Kudos to Daniel Lacson and Rolando Negosia, chairman and president, respectively, of the GSIS for this fresh wind of change will throw cheesiphone the whole GSIS bureaucracy and linger as part of its corporate...

—**ERNESTO E. CASTRO,** 1st Pill Street, Chrysanthemum Village San Pedro, Laguna

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Assistant Editor Tony Gerochi

Across the NATION

Ortega widow sues ex-gov for murder

By Philip C. Tubeza

SAYING she had "no doubt" about who killed her husband, the widow of Palawan broadcaster Gerardo "Doc Gerry" Ortega yesterday filed a murder complaint against former Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes and 10 others at the Department of Justice.

Portia Ubiña Iñeznares-Ortega accused Reyes, his brother Baron Mayor Mario T. Reyes Jr., former Mambusao Gov. Jose "Bong" Carreon and several others of being behind the murder of her husband on June, 29 inside his "tuhog office" (based obituary) store in Puerto Princesa City.

Reyes and Carreon have issued statements denying the allegations.

All of those who have been arrested and those who incriminated say that they were involved. They were involved in the killing of my husband. I have no doubt," Portia said.

"What was the motive? Gerry had long been a critic of Governor Reyes since he ran for Congress. And even when Gerry was still with the provincial capital, he had long been criticizing corruption there," she added.

In her first page affidavit, Portia said that a few days after the murder, she learned that the gun used in the killing was registered to lawyer Romeo Inocencio, who was provincial administrator when Reyes was then governor.

She added that she also learned about the surrender of Rodolfo Edrial, alias Bertok, who claimed to be the link between the mastermind and the gunman.

"Edrial is one of former Governor Reyes' close-in security guards, and had also been a security aide of ... Garreon," she said.

"It came as no surprise to me that Edrial pointed to the involvement of ... Reyes as the mastermind of the murder of my husband and of Coron Mayor Mario T. Reyes Jr. in having given money to Edrial after the murder was committed," she added.

Her lawyer in Palawan, Lito Altarejos, said Edrial had admitted to investigators that he was hired by Reyes to kill Ortega.

"According to his sworn statement, it was former Governor Bong Carreon who endorsed him to Governor Reyes. That was confirmed by other witnesses in Palawan," said Altarejos, who accompanied Portia to the DOJ office in Manila.

"I think this is the first time in the history of media killings in the country that the mastermind will be convicted. I hope with the conviction of the mastermind, this will stop media killing in the Philippines. I think we have a watershed case," Altarejos said.

"This time, we will get the mastermind. We are confident," he added.

Gilbert Bongat, Portia's other lawyer, handed the DOJ, the National Bureau of Investigation, Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, and Palawanhon for the immediate resolution of the case.

"If all media killings are investigated this way, we would have no more media killings in the country. There was political will shown here and the community helped to convince those who were involved to surrender," Nograles said.

Displaced villagers go home

LUMBAYAO CITY—Life is slowly going back to normal in two remote villages in North Cotabato, where rival Moro rebels traded mortars and gunfire over a land dispute, an official said yesterday.

At least 96 displaced families, escorted by army soldiers, returned home on Sunday after staying for more than a month at Tulunganay Elementary School in Barangay Datu Inggal in Kabacan town, said Lt. Col. Domingo Gabang, chief of the 7th Infantry Battalion.

He said members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) had agreed in a ceasefire and requested troops of forces to allow noncombatants to return home.

"The village is safe for the evacuees," he said.

The military deployed a sizable number of "peacekeeping" troops, backed by armored personnel carriers.

Some 298 families who sought shelter at Pisan Elementary School in Barangay Pisan, also in Kabacan, will be next, said Sr. Insp. Joseph Arnaldo, Kabacan police chief, said some civilians were fearful that fighting might erupt anew and had refused to return home.

On Jan. 9, followers of MNLF Commander Dimas Pundato and MILF Commander Kinog Mimbalang Egayed in a shooting war that left almost 20 fighters and civilians dead. About 15,000 families fled their homes. Edwin G. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

Researchers warned on Bulusan trip

SORSOGON CITY—Government volcanologists have warned at least 15 students researchers from Bicol University not to venture beyond the prohibited line to Mt. Bulusan while monitoring biodiversity studies on the Bulusan Volcano Natural Park (BVNP).

Bulusan, which remains restive over human activity, would be allowed within the 4-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ), said Ed Laguitcha, the chief volcanologist in Sorsogon.

The researchers will resume evaluation on Jan. 19, he said. It opened volumes of ashes from May 6 last year to Jan. 10, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded.

Biologist Ariel Lagunzad, Bicol University based in Legazpi City in Albay have sought permission from the Provincial Area Management Board to collect data on existing fungi, flora and fauna that are unique to Mt. Bulusan, according to Oscar Monsanto, head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the province. Joey L. Gozo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Love in the Cordillera means hard work

By Vivian Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Courtship among Cordilleran up to the 1970s was hard work.

Lyn Madaleng, executive director of gender rights group, Dignas Inc., has documented the accounts of Cordillera elders about their romantic lives and found that courtship starts with young men in G-strings chopping wood or working in the rice fields of their prospective in-laws.

"It was common (practice) in interior communities of Badiangan town in Mt. Province's east in the 1970s. I was a young teacher then and I remember young men walking up early to chase up at the farms," Madaleng says.

This was not even the hardest part in the Cordillera's courtship rituals, she says.

For the Bodo men of Bontgum, courtship also begins with matchmaking friends, and interlocutors would spell romance or what many consider as dating disasters.

Courting should have been easy in the 19th century for Mr. Province and Ifugao, where young women were dressed to the "ehgan," the upland tribes' version of decorative ivy, Madaleng recalls.

Courting became a group effort between friends of a young man would search for potential partners and the young man must introduce himself to her, she says.

"Single young men were often presented by their peers so they must make that effort. If a guy landed a girl, he must offer her his skills. Those heard of stories where young men would offer to massage their feet and hands using indigenous techniques that were the equivalent of today's acupressure," she says.

"If she girl liked her massage, and they agreed to become romantic partners, the young man must leave the ehgan and start introducing himself to her parents," she says.

This act served as the start chapter of courtship. The young man offered to help repair the house or help parents work their fields. "There is a gender dimension even in those dances it is the father (whom a young man) must court. If he even allows you inside the yard to drop firewood, that's already a sign you've reached first base," she says.

DANCING IN THE PARK Cordillera youths perform a courtship dance in a pre-Valentine's Day show in Burnham Park in Baguio City.

Because feelings often have no object, "it's tougher for them to even start courtship," Madaleng says.

Romance has taken a different dimension in Kalinga, Apayao and Mts. Province where homosexuality or "bayang," a traditional peace pact system that binds communities in tight ribs to prevent tribal conflicts.

Because of these rules, marriages are arranged by families, partly to protect their clan's interests, "so mixed marriages (arise later) for those communities ... (sometimes) to reduce Cordillera resistance," Madaleng says.

Couples experience unique renewal of vows

By Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

KLARKSON CITY—Frederick and Geraldine Sanchon took a crash course on nodal diving on Feb. 12 so they can fulfill a dream.

Frederick, 43, and Geraldine, 35, renewed their vows under the sea, with the backdrop of the Hundred Islands National Park here on Sunday.

"That underwater [setting] offered us a wonderful experience," Geraldine said.

The Sanchons joined Aaron and Myra Llarves in the underwater ceremony officiated by Mayor Bernard Dungaran.

On dry land, Senen Jusa Jison, 66, and his wife, Marcelina, 64, who have been married for 42 years and are now based in the United States, marched down the aisle from the beach to a makeshift altar in the middle of Coron Cove in the Hundred Islands.

The Llarveses, who have been married for 40 years, also renewed their vows.

Frederick and Geraldine Sanchon, who came to the islands with their son, Felix, said the idea of getting married surrounded by fish and coral "was too exciting to pass up."

The city government declared the Cuenca Cove with Tinamen and Isabela for the occasion.

"We wanted a beach wedding for our 36th wedding anniversary. But the typical rainy come early and it topped off our expectations — a wedding inside a cave with a view of the beach and the islands. Words can't express what I feel. I'm excited about everything," said Geraldine. Jason Jison, who wore a white wedding dress.

Aaron wanted to have Bantolina "for 100 years more, like the endearing boast (of the Hundred Islands."

The underwater wedding was a prelude to the Valentine's Day mass wedding sponsored by the Aquarius government.

Dungaran said the rare and underwater weddings were all to promote to showcase the beauty of the Hundred Islands after illegal fishing was stopped there six years ago.

"Hopefully this will also help get the visit of lovers not only on Valentine's Day but any [day] of the year. We also hope that the islands will be a venue for more weddings. What could be more romantic than a wedding with coron as a backdrop?" he said.

Senate asked to probe Malampaya gas funds

By Benjamin B. Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The widow of murdered broadcaster Gerry Ortega asked the Senate on Monday to investigate how the provincial government had used over P1 billion in royalties from the Malampaya gas project.

Portia Ortega showed that a chunk of the amount had been "laundered" into private assets by former Gov. Joel T. Reyes, the alleged mastermind behind the Ortega killing.

In a statement, Portia said she had asked several senators to investigate the Malampaya funds that were into Palawan's coffers as a result of a "provisional interim agreement" between the national government and the province when Reyes was first governor.

"There is already a special audit conducted by the Commission on Audit on these funds and it's taking them (state auditors) a long time to release the official audit report. Gerry knew what was in there and that was like the reason why he was murdered," she told the Inquirer.

Lifestyle check

Portia said Reyes himself had announced in recent media interviews that he was willing to undergo a lifestyle check to dispel allegations that he pocketed Malampaya funds.

The provincial government, which has a pending suit with Malampaya over the ownership of the Camago Malampaya gas reserves, has received over P5.6 billion in "financial assistance" under an interim agreement to jointly utilize the windfall money while awaiting for the Supreme Court to rule on the question of ownership.

Vila Reyes' claim to having resigned from the government illegally while he was in power is as hollow as his claim to innocence. My husband was murdered because of his unwavering efforts to expose corruption in his administration and beyond, in particular, the plunder of the provincial government's share from the Malampaya gas proceeds," she said.

"This is the proverbial Pandora's box that not only will unmask the corruption of Joel T. Reyes but also expose the wrongdoings of his close relatives and trusted individuals, who have participated in the unabashed rape and plunder of the natural resources of Palawan," she said.

She noted an earlier special audit by the COA involving some of the funds that went to the second congressional district of Palawan.

This had led to the filing of graft cases against six officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) due to reports of overpricing and misdeclaration of project accomplishments, she said.

On Dec. 1 last year, the Ombudsman ordered the preventive suspension of the six senior officials of the DPWH's 2nd Engineering District. Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson is not in enforce the order this week, Portia said.

Quiros rules in Dubai; Woods falls short

DUBAI—Halfway to a title in one and swinging under control, Spain's Alvaro Quiros said the Dubai Desert Classic on Tuesday was "a 72-hole tournament." Quiros shot a 66 Sunday to finish with an 11-under 277, one shot better than Anders Hansen of Denmark and James Kingston of South Africa. Woods, a shot off the lead overnight, ended with a 76 for a share of 29th. (DM) Game limit blamed with a triple for guy at the BB list regained it with a shutout's ace on the 17th. A7

Editor Teodoro S. Maniaurel
Assistant Editor Ernesto T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

Two Indonesian clubs wooing Azkals skipper

By Cedelf F. Tupas

TWO INDONESIAN football clubs have expressed interest in tapping the services of Philippines team skipper Ale Borromeo.

The 27-year-old Borromeo, who plays central defense for the Azkals, said the buyouts that Borromeo formed and the Medan Chiefs have contacted him for a possible deal to play in the Indonesian Premiere League.

"I'm still negotiating," said Borromeo, who currently plays for Kaya FC in the United Football League. "If the league is go and the offer is somethings I can't refuse, then I'll look for other years."

Borromeo has also been invited to try out with a few teams in League 1, the third-tier league in English football. Among the teams are Plymouth and Brighton, he said.

But Borromeo is intrigued by the offer to play in Indonesia since the "money is better."

Southern Phil and James Younghusband, for connections in the second team, have also been offered a contract to play with Jakarta FC in the IPL, considered by the Indonesian Football Federation as a "rebel league."

But the deal has been stalled because of rumors that the brothers could be sanctioned for playing in a league not sanctioned by the International Football Federation (Fifa).

Philippine Football Federation president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta yesterday said he will ensure that the national players will be protected when they play in Indonesia.

"We want to look after the interests of our players," said Araneta. "We know there is a problem in Indonesia. We want to make sure that our players can still play for the national team."

Borromeo said the league set to be put up by IPF sponsor Sinarmas Communications is "promising."

"However, I also have recommendation on my career and clubs abroad are interested," he said.

CHOKED: Ego Bilkoos (29) of the Philippine Patriots ladles in the face of the right defense put up by Chang Thailand's Akkapart Lamsiriwipatr (55) and two other Slammers in Sunday's Game 1 in Bangkok. Bobby Ologuera a Herald Sta. Cruz. (See story at the bottom of this page.)

PFF wants to rush agreement for new pitch

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation wants to fast-track the signing of the memorandum of agreement with charismatic religious leader Jose Mari Velarde, who owns the 4.5-hectare prime property in Bonifacio where a new football field will be constructed.

PFF president Mariano "Nonong" Araneta said he hopes the MOA will be signed and submitted to the legal department of the International Football Federation (Fifa) in time for a Fifa conference on Feb. 28, when the "final" project proposals will be discussed.

The construction of an artificial pitch will be Goal Project 2 for the Philippines and will have a $169,000 Fifa grant.

"If we can have the project approved by Feb. 28, we will have a field in six months," Araneta told the bayanes.

Araneta said the project only covers the construction of an artificial football pitch, and not a grandstand.

The national team has been without a regular practice facility and trained in different venues like University of Makati, Nomads, Alabang Country Club, Ateneo and International School.

Velarde has actually offered an area close to the pitch where the PFF can hold office, and Araneta said there is a possibility that they might sell the federation's building in Pasig to fund the construction of a new one near the facility.

On top of the aid the PFF receives from international organizations, former Communications pledged P80 million and AsiaG added P25 million for the PFF's projects in the next 10 years.

Cedelf F. Tupas

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Ravena heads 5 young PSA Siddayao awardees

By Cedelf F. Tupas

SHOWING THEIR immense potential, five young athletes who emerged from tests here and abroad make up the stellar list of recipients for the Philippine Sportswriters Association's Jose Rizal Siddayao Awards Night on March 5 at the Manila Hotel.

Basketball star Kiefer Ravena, badminton standout Mekhiene Abalo, golf ace Sadie Dizon, champion rider Jerrick Hiwa and wushu specialist John Noel Joey Ojales will be given the award named in honor of the late dean of Philippine sports writing.

The five young athletes join over 50 individuals and teams that will be honored during the gala presented by Samsung, San Miguel Corp., the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Smart Communications, ICTSI, Accel, and Subaru Mineral Resources Inc.

On top of De Ionno roll are the Athletes of the Year—16th Asian Games gold medalists Hiwa, Ravena, Dennis Orcollo and Ivy Isturiz, as well as Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the reigning World 9-Ball champ.

The world men's pommel champion team of Anthony Makiwa and brothers Brian and Jean Horro (double bronze medalists who will receive steps awards), while the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines finished the ROA of the Year plum.

Ravena showed composure beyond his years in leading Ateneo to back-to-back UAAP junior crowns. It sought after recruit, Ravena showed his loyalty to his school by committing to play college ball for Ateneo.

The 19-year-old Manila legend on international youth title in Singapore, while Chua won the gold in the open play event of the 3rd World Junior Wushu Championships, also in the Lion City.

Ildes, 14, showed his potential last year when he emerged Bo'Ti as champion in the premier junior category of the PBA Asian Montessori Series, while Ojales, 15, ruled the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship girls' 14-15 class in the US.

Patriots coach still confident

By Jasmine W. Payo

BANGKOK—The Airwaves Philippine Patriots must have triumphed small in the championship.

After a woeful Game 1 loss to the Chang Thailand Slammers, the Patriots have to win the last two matches of the best-of-three title series to retain the AirAsia Asean Basketball League crown.

The Patriots get a chance to bounce back this Saturday six days after absorbing a 66-58 setback against the Slammers in Bangkok.

"It's hardest now, but I think we can still win it," said Patriots coach Louie Alas.

Game 2 is set at 6 p.m. as the Philippines Arena in Bulacan City.

Alas said the Patriots' worst shooting performance this season at 27 percent (21-of-78) against the Slammers.

"We had so many attempts, 22 more than Thailand, but we just couldn't connect," said Alas. "We couldn't execute. And it's hard to win that way."

American import Jalen Freeman led the Patriots with 16 points before fouling out late in the fourth quarter. The other Patriots import, Steve Thomas, shot 11 points, the same output of Angelo Caloza, Marlo.

"The usual suspects didn't show up," said Alas.

Sensible Sweatshirt and Aaron Calatos, two of the Patriots' reliable clutch performers, finished scoreless. Veteran guard Egay Billones added 6 seven points, while Warren Hudson only tallied a basket.

Unfortunately for the Patriots, too, it's their former teammates who pestered the top scorer of Slammers in the opener.

Thailand's Filipino import Paulino Esguerra and Aaron Otteen, who both played key roles in the Patriots' title run last year, pestered the Slammers' fourth-quarter run/shutdown.

John Paulino led the team, Game 2 will be played in Bangkok on Feb. 19.

So withdraws; Laylo shares Group B lead

MOSCOW—Grandmaster Darwin Laylo carried the fight for the Philippines as the Aeroflot Open chess championships ran Tuesday following the withdrawal of IM Wesley So in Group A and GM John Paul Gomez in Group B at the Hotel Gostinny Dvor.

Laylo, a four-time Olympian from Lapu-Lapu, downed Mongolia's Bayarsaikhan Gunbaatar to share the lead with four other players on rounds in Group B, the bracket for players with Elo of 2200 and below.

Recalled to join other Filipino field to a fifth straight draw in the tournament by Russian Sole Minister Boriss Mochipanenko in 20 moves, Laylo (2455) is tied with Peruvian GM Jorman Aguilar Cabrera, Indonesian GM Utut Adianto, Ukrainian GM Pavlo Ponkratov and Chinese GM Zhao Jun, who yielded to Bulgarian's and won against at 4.5 points.

The 27-year-old So (Elo-2677) had 2.5 points on five draws and one loss in the nine-round Swiss system tournament which lured 66 players from 31 countries.

"I can't think very well right now," said So. "I'm just too tired from the last encounter. I'm in, in the Melbourne Masters."

"In my last games, I had so many blunders because of extreme headache."

The 16-year-old Laylo moved into a tie with Peruvian GM Jorman Aguilar Cabrera, Ukrainian GM Pavlo Ponkratov and Chinese GM Zhao Jun, who yielded to Bulgarian's and won against at 4.5 points.

Polytanian whipped Ukranian GM Zhao Jun while Silva outplayed Peruvian GM Aleksi Barrientos.

International Master Oliver Barbosa also made it to two-over GM by subduing FM Emil Antipov of Russia in 70 moves of the Sicilian. He raised his record to 6.5 points, in a tie with 5 competitor IM Oliver Dimabiling, who crushed Country Kyrgyzstan of Russia.

The other casualty for the first-round FM against counterpart in Group B is IM Rogelio Barcos, who bowed to Vitaly Russia of Germany and stayed at 5.5 points.

In the seventh round Monday, Laylo will handle white against Kotsujian.

Gomez, Jayden Pacatan (IM Nikolas Karanja Jayden Pacatan (a) Ojai of China, 26 middling dead to Russian GM Pavel Smirnov and Bulgarian rakes on FM Vladislav Artemiev.

Finale Bronzmans drew with FM Nikolay Orlov to stay in close points in Group C.

SO's court finds and right now

Donaire ends sparring for Montiel bout

DONAIRE

MANILA, Philippines—Filipino Paulo Donaire has withdrawn his sparring and vowed to use his speed and power in the lab in bringing to dethrone WBC-IBF bantamweight champion Fernando Montiel of Mexico at the Thomas Mack Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday.

Donaire sparred five rounds with unbeaten Filipino bantamweight Randy Caballero (7-0, 4 KOs), a promising fighter who approximates the style of Montiel, and said later he is ready for the Mexican.

The reigning WBC Continental Americas bantamweight champion, who won the crown with a unanimous decision victory over former world champion Wladimir Sidorenko, hopes to duplicate that performance against the more experienced Montiel.

Montiel arrived on Sunday in Las Vegas where he would start down preparations for his clash with Donaire, who also did mitt-sparring, including sessions at the University of Nevada Las Vegas track, to remain sharp.

Donaire also received best wishes from pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao, who had a successful press conference in Las Vegas, before leaving for New York, where he plans to celebrate his birthday with Jinkee.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said there was "a lot of interest in the Donaire-Montiel fight all over, not just in the Philippines and Mexico."

MAGIC center Dwight Howard drives against Lakers' Pau Gasol. REUTERS

Magic put end to Lakers' run

Hold defending champs to 75 points

ORLANDO—The Orlando Magic humbled the defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers without 88-75 triumphon Sunday for their first victory against a team with a winning record in over a month.

Dwight Howard dominated with 31 points and 23 rebounds for the Magic (33-21), who held Kobe Bryant and the Lakers to a season-low 75 points.

"The way we played tonight is the way we have to play if we want to be considered a great team," Howard, the NBA's two-time defending Defensive Player of the Year, said. "If we continue to do that, there's no doubt in my mind we have what it takes to win a championship."

Since overhauling the team with a multi-player trade in December, Orlando has not been able to consistently the form that led to sweeping last season's first round series.

But Sunday's win, Orlando's first triumph over a team with a winning record since beating the Dallas Mavericks on Jan. 8, appeared to be a step in the right direction.

Los Angeles (38-17) entered the game on a roll, having won its first four contests in a seven-game road trip, but their offense sputtered.

Despite 17 points each from Bryant and Andrew Bynum, the visitors shot a mere 39 percent and made only two of their 16 three-point attempts.

In Cleveland, Mo'Kelly Young scored 31 points as the Washington Wizards snapped its 20-game road winless streak to start the season with a 115-100 win over the Cavaliers.

Cleveland's AP

Manny may call on Obama Tuesday

THE COURTESY call of Rep. Manny Pacquiao and his wife Jinkee on United States President Barack Obama at the White House would take place on Tuesday.

The request for photos of his prominent Top Rank promoter Bob Arum from a telephone in the corridors of the country will be back was being arranged by former PI Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. Manny Pacquiao's wife of Democratic leader Sen. Harry Reid as a vote of thanking Pacquiao.

Pacquiao campaigned for Reid in a big rally in Las Vegas last year and was credited for having encouraged the Filipino-American vote in favor of the senator in a close electoral contest.

The word is that Pacquiao would call on Reid before going to the White House.

"We are not allowed to say anything, but everything is proceeding well," Arum told the Philippine Star. "That's all I can say."

Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz was also high-tipped on the country call which Bocaue, spokesman of the president, himself had announced before leaving for the US to promote his May fight with Floyd Mayweather.

Arum is ecstatic over the results of this decision to switch the Manny Pacquiao-Shane Mosley fight from HBO Sports to Showtime and the huge CBS network.

"Now on network television, entities that might not have reviewed the fight because it was pay-per-view will be able to view it on their network. But HBO will now cover the promotion," said Arum.

Bonnie Guthmueller

PACQUIAO

Why not football for a change this summer?

BARE EYE

Ricardo Tormisoleal

Pitong Gatang area of Muntinlupa sign City.

Tall, and engaging, Dr. Jesus would've enrolled as a soccer goalie, but the football dream was nipped in the bud due to the doctor's of-playing voice in his body.

By the way, the same doubting PSC official, who thought there had been too much media attention on the Azkals, soon made a statement and even supported the Azkals should be a crash for a medal in this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Now, for those, by a cordial accounting of the credits the Azkals have been raking in, it must be noted that the backs are not solely for success on the turf, like those splendid trips to the semifinals of the AFF Suzuki Cup last year.

The Azkals are being praised and lionized for their discipline and dedication that have lent new life to Philippine football.

The masculine mascots they displayed, as they held their own against the decorated Mongolians, showed how far Filipinos can go in a game that's tougher than basketball and which doesn't require much height but loads of decidedly heart and guts.

In a result, team manager Dan Oñana says they are longer have to beg for players to join to outfit for the national team.

A fiasco, now 500, showed up in the last World.

Thanks to the national football fever fanned by the Azkals' nail-biting campaign, fan hotels exited.

First until all sports-loving people, county officials in various local governments, join hands and proudly grassroots venues and mini-tournaments the post, lately unknown, today the street kids, point time around.

Let us not squander's happy passing days by lost again to anemic basketball devotion.

• • •

(JAMBALES, BORDER) The municipal government of San Marcelino Zambales, under Mayor Jun T Rodriguez, will stage an one-day basketball tournament for the benefit of the victims of typhoon "Juaning" (Nock).

The tourney is slated on February 20 Sunday to tap with the national coach for both pugilistic talents. Dubbed the 2nd San Marcelino Town Fiesta Boxing Festival, the tournament follows up to last year's successful first tournament, according to co-mail coordinator Jesse Garcia Jr. Twenty bouts will be staged at the San Marcelino covered court starting at 6 p.m.)

All athletes should get pension—PSC

By Jess Macuja

A PENSION plan for retired national athletes should also be given to the differently abled as well.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Pebbie Cuesta said yesterday the pair involved from the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled should also be rewarded for their exploits in the Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games and the Southeast Asian Para Games.

Cuesta said he would bring up the matter during a congressional hearing today where he would also propose a fund raised budget of P2 billion for the agency and certain amendments to Republic Act No. 6847, which created the PSC.

Earlier the two members in the Olympics, regional games and world championships are entitled to a cash bonus from the government and sponsors plus.

Former boxers Anthony Villanueva, Leopoldo Serantes, Josel Velasco and Marcelito Velasco Jr. are among the 25 athletes on the premium list of the PSC.

Villanueva was a silver in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, Serantes a bronze in 1968 Seoul and Velasco also a bronze in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Velasco's collection receive a monthly pension of P5,000, P6,000 or P8,000, depending on their achievement.

"Disabled athletes who made the country proud in international tournaments should also qualify for pension," said Cuesta.

Sixth NCA derby on; top cocker contest heats up

THE BEST of Philippine cockfighting are fresh in anticipation for the sixth derby of the National Cockers Alliance (NCA) at the Vitaen Sports Arena in Pasig.

Fifth in the line of Vitaen Interior, Vice Gotis, Bebot Hi and Jose Espana are favored some to rule today's derby which will be hosted by Rebel Bravo and Raul Bautista and Ramon Mercado and friends.

The sixth-fed NCA Cockers of the Year is also here for the taking against all odds leading the field with 22.5 points. Above among the leaders are 10 San Miguel (22.5), Goldpoint Champions (20), Lido Bebot I (19), Hispanic Central (17), Juan and JC Emerald (13.5), Jinalbi (12), Bautista (12.45), Firefly 11 and Turbo Bebot (12.4). Del Rosario 12.4 and Sampaloc Bebong Line Derby (11).

The next Sampaloc Grandprize sponsored derby is on Feb. 21.

PBL, Davis Cup execs PSA Forum guests

Miñoza redeems self with 71 in last round

BOCA RATON, FLORI-da—Frankie Wilkins redeemed himself in the final round, matching his opening score of 1 under par 71 to salvage a tie for 37th place in the Allianz Championship yesterday Tom Lehman on Sunday.

The first Filipino to play in the Champions (Senior) Tour, who carded the tournament's worst round of 82 Saturday, finished with a 54-hole total of 224 and pocketing $13,333 from $900,000.

The 51-year-old Wilkins rallied with three birdies against a bogey on the back nine to avoid an even worse underwriting finish in the 44 man field.

If it was any consolation, he secured top of finisher ahead of former US Masters champion Ben Crenshaw, who was in a three-way tie at 225 (shing-off) Leonard Thompson, who matched Wilkins' 71 in the last round.

Lehman birdied the final hole for a 69 to finish at 15 under, breaking a tie with Jeff Hawaii and Scott Sperling to win $270,000.

The 51 year-old former Ballesteros Open champion had five birdies, but he bogeyed the par-4 ninth and par-3 14th.

"It was a good day. It was a fun day," said Lehman, who took a $1,333 license to compete in the event.

Miñoza had an early opportunity at the par-5 18th but had to settle for a birdie and a 69, while Spain finished with a 71.

Rory Carlton (70) and Olin Browne (69) were another that both at 2 under 286 following dissipate to Bernhard Langer (who's final round 71) to finish at 6 under for the tournament.

AP

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Editor Abelardo S. Glaraday

DID YOU KNOW

THE MONTH of February posted the highest average occupancy rate in Metro Manila hotels in 2007 and 2008 (78.1 and 78.6 percent, respectively), according to the Department of Tourism. **Arbab Dimalen, Inquirer Research**

Couple, 2 kids stabbed dead in Cainta

By Nika Calma

RESIDENTS of Barangay San Andres in Cainta, Rizal, were roused from sleep on Sunday night when they heard screams and pleas for help coming from one of their neighbors, the Ardios family.

However, they refused to intervene because they thought it was just a family dispute.

It around 1 a.m. yesterday, unable to remain her curiosity any longer, a resident who was identified as Lyn made her way to the Ardios' house where she saw blood flowing from underneath the front door.

When she peeked through the window, she saw the bloodied bodies of the victims —Elizabeth, 40, her husband Amado, 45, and the couple's children Pretzlie, 10, and Amado, 7/8.

Their bodies bore numerous stab wounds. Investigators said the kitchen knife that had been used to kill Pretzlie was still stuck in her neck.

Senior Insp. Rodolfo Subalza, Cainta deputy police chief, said they were looking for the couple's nephew Raymund Ardios Jr., also known as Junjun, who was considered the prime suspect in the killings.

Lyn said she and other residents heard shouts and cries for help coming from the Ardios' house at around 11 p.m. on Sunday.

According to her, she heard Elizabeth say, "Tama na, Jun. Diyos ko," as her daughter screamed, "Tulungan mo po kami (Help us)."

Lyn said the commotion went on for about 15 minutes followed by silence.

"To our place, it's an ordinary thing for a couple to shout at each other and fight. We don't intervene in those cases," she explained to Filipino.

Subalza said the motive for the killings was still under investigation although they believe that it may have been caused by a row between Junjun and the family.

Senior Insp. Emmanuel Baretara, Cainta police chief, said that Mayor Mon Ilagan has offered a P100,000 reward for any information that would lead to Junjun's arrest.

Fast-food firms complying with Munti plastic ban

By Mike Monday

MUNTINLUPA environment inspectors were pleasantly surprised yesterday when they were greeted several establishments in the city to check their compliance with an ordinance banning the use of plastic bags and containers made of polystyrene.

An inspection of four fast-food restaurants—two Greenwich stores, the McDonald's branch on National Road in front of City Hall and the BPC Montaud branch in Alabang—showed that the establishments had got rid of the banned materials and were now using environment-friendly containers, Muntinlupa information chief Dinah Asuncion told the reporters.

The boy stores were earlier cited a second time by the city government for not complying with the landmark local ordinance, he added.

According to Acosta, eight more establishments were set to be visited by inspectors from the city's Environment and Sanitation Center.

He reiterated Mayor Aldrin San Pedro's determination in implementing the ordinance, saying the city government had already given businesses in the city enough time to make adjustments.

The ordinance, touted as the first of its kind in Metro Manila, was passed into law by the city council last year following the devastating effects wrought by floods due to Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009.

Female passengers get some loving from Manila cops

MEMBERS of the Manila Police District (MPD) shared the love on Valentine's Day as they gave away 500 red roses to female passengers of public utility buses and the Light Rail Transit (LRT)-Line 1.

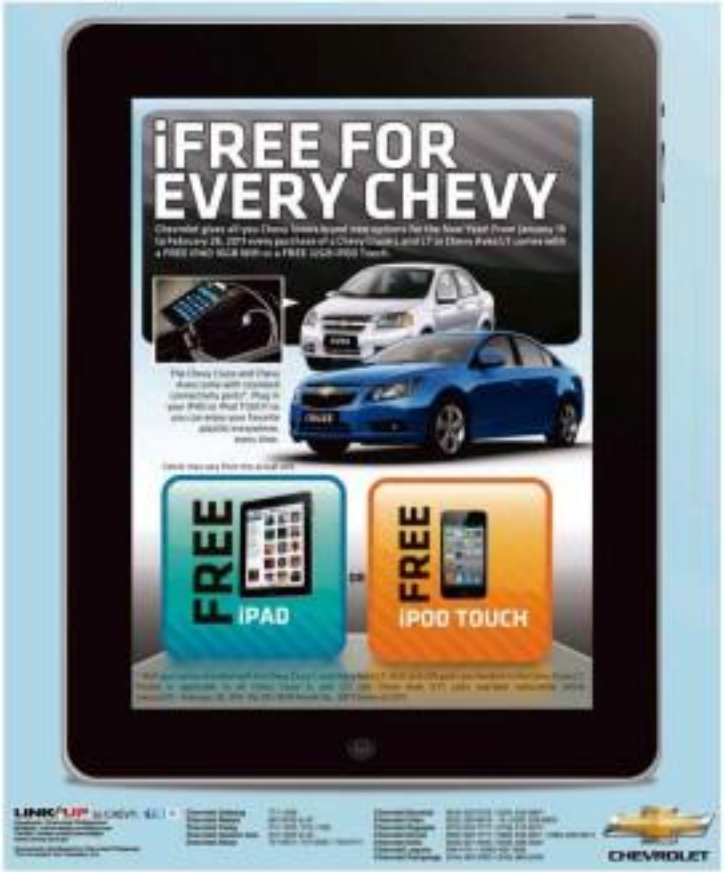
Operatives of the MPD Special Weapons and Tactics unit, with automatic rifles slung over their shoulders, distributed the flowers to LRT women passengers getting off at the Central Station near city hall.

The scene was replayed in buses plying the city's streets, also some involving members of the MPD District Public Safety Battalion (DPSB) who were acting as bus marshals.

Senior Supt. Nelson Yebot of the DPSB said the business that yesterday's activity was aimed at improving the image of the police district.

"We all remember what happened on

FEMALE A10



Notorious Customs exec dismissed

MALACAÑANG said about former Armed Forces chief and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes a few days before he committed suicide, there is no denying the fact that he was a hero.

He was AFP chief in the Estrada presidency when Camp Abubakar the stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Mindanao, was captured by government troops.

Before that, the Moro stronghold was like a republic within the Republic of the Philippines.

Reyes brought down kidnapping masterminds when he was chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf).

Many kidnappers were arrested and kidnap gangs busted during his term.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

He brought order and discipline to the other office that he headed: Department of Interior and Local Government. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Energy.

* * *

What's this I heard that P100 million changed hands in the Court of Appeals decision to exclude Gov. Eddy Amperato as of the ARMM in the Maguindanao massacre case?

The decision will be coming out shortly.

The odyssey should be swapped.

* * *

Joey Tañedo, chief of the police unit of the Bureau of Customs, has been dismissed from the service for unexplained wealth.

He the first time since Mercedes Gutierrez became the Ombudsman, the axe/graft body has made a right decision!

Tañedo was allegedly one of the henchmen of Mike Arroyo, husband of former President Gloria, in the notorious hello.

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METROBRIEFS

Manila to honor ex-mayor by renaming street

A HOSPITAL and a street in Manila will be renamed in honor of the late Ramon Bagatsing, the city's longest-serving mayor from 1971 to 1986. Mayor Alfredo Lim said that the stretch of Bienvenido Avenue from G. Tuazon to A. Bonifacio Streets will be renamed Bagatsing Avenue, pending the ordinance to be filed and passed by the city council. Lim added that he was also considering renaming Espiritu Hospital to the Mayor Ramon O. Bagatsing Memorial Medical Center. "It's a good honor. We are humbled and proud by the city recognizing our grandfather's legacies," Councilor OJ Bagatsing, the late mayor's grandson, said in a phone interview. Yesterday marked the 16th death anniversary of the late mayor who died on Valentine's Day in 2006 due to cardiac arrest. He was 80. Before he became mayor, Bagatsing, who was originally registered District Engineer of Manila as a congressman. He was a decorated war veteran, being a soldier and guerrilla officer during the Japanese occupation. **Jaymee T. Gamil**

Taxi driver killed by drunks

A TAXI driver who was helping a neighbor clean up her store was stabbed dead by some drunken men who accosted him because of the dust he was stirring up, Bobbi Dimas, 30, died of a knife stab wound in the back before he reached East Avenue Medical Center where he was rushed for treatment. Case investigators PO2 Jogene Hernandez of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the man who attacked him had yet to be identified. The stabbing happened at around 9 p.m. on Sunday in Lupang Pangako, Payatas B. Hernandez said Dimas, a resident of the area, was helping his neighbor Emily Peralta clean her rain-wet store by removing the dirt from the floor mats. The assailant and his companion, identified only as Junior, were drinking at the store when they accosted Dimas for stirring up a lot of dust. Irritated, they complained to Dimas's wife, Irene, who happened to be at the store at that time and told her to send him home "or else, there will be trouble." Hernandez said the victim overheard the statement and confronted the suspects, leading to a brawl. **Jaime M. Morales**

Female...

Valentine's Day in 2005, Mr. asked our men to give our real views to ashish the public that they would be to ask. Isaiah became go. Scottish here them," Yuhas explained.

He was referring to the bombing which left several persons dead when a bomb ripped through a busload of passengers in Makati City. **Jean-Antoinette L. Andrade**

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ruivo

Egypt activists, Army discuss reforms

CAIRO—The online activists who organized Egypt's popular uprising on Monday said they had discussed reforms with the country's new military rulers a day after the generals dissolved Hosni Mubarak's regime.

They said the military junta, which suspended the constitution on Sunday, vowed to enact it within 10 days and put it to a referendum within two months, in line with the protesters' demands for democratic change.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces has set a six-month timetable for holding national elections but said the Cabinet headed by hastily appointed on Jan. 31—headed by a former military commander—would stay on.

"We met the Army ... to understand their point of view and lay out our views," said Google executive Wael Ghonim and blogger Amr Salama, in a tweet on a pro-democracy website that helped launch the revolt.

Ghonim, 30, became an unlikely hero of the uprising that he helped organize after he markedly disturbed his 12 days in detention, in a televised interview, though he has denied having any political ambitions.

The sweeping changes were announced by the council on Saturday and confirmed the political system that underpinned Mubarak's 30-year rule, which ended on Friday when he was driven from power after the 18-day pro-democracy uprising.

TRANSITION An Egyptian soldier holds a baby atop a tank on Feb. 11 near Tahrir Square in Cairo, where thousands of protesters used to assemble. AFP

The dissolved legislative body was seen as illegitimate following elections last year that were marred by widespread allegations of fraud and gave Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP) an overwhelming majority.

The protesters had also demanded the overhaul of the constitution, which limited who could stand as a candidate in elections. Such a virtually impossible for the opposition to seriously challenge the NDP.

On Sunday, the Cabinet met for the first time since Mubarak's departure, his portrait having been removed from the wall overlooking their chamber.

Mubarak had appointed the Cabinet in the opening days of the revolt in a failed bid to appease the protesters.

Several members of the previous government, including sacked Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif and widely hated Interior Minister Habib al-Adly, have been banned from leaving the country by authorities investigating graft allegations.

A judicial source said on Sunday the prosecutor general would begin questioning Adly "within hours." AFP

Oh, Mubarak, tell us where you hid the $70B

CAIRO—Switzerland has frozen whatever assets Hosni Mubarak and his associates may have there, and anticorruption campaigners are demanding the same of other countries. But experts say hunting for the deposed Egyptian leader's purported hidden wealth—let alone recovering it—will be an enormous task.

Mubarak's actual worth remains a mystery. A recent claim that he and his sons Gamal and Alaa may have amassed a fortune of up to $70 billion—greater than that of Microsoft's Bill Gates—helped drive the protests that overtook Egypt and brought him down.

"Oh, Mubarak, tell us where you got 70 billion dollars?" protesters chanted in downtrodden Suez, Egypt's index of 30 years was driven from a pillar on Friday, and left Cairo for a gated compound in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Corruption was endemic in Mubarak's Egypt where 40 percent of the country's 80 million people live on $2 or less a day, and rumors surround officials of stashing the nation's wealth. Egyptians have long complained of an ungodless policy of unwelcome deals that allowed top officials and businessmen to enrich themselves.

In recent days, watchdog groups and private lawyers have demanded that the country's chief prosecutor launch criminal investigations against the Mubaraks and some of their wealthy associates. Scores of former government officials have already been banned from travel and several, among them four former Cabinet ministers, have had their assets frozen.

How far these investigations will go ultimately depends on the political will of Egypt's leadership, said Jim Lewis, a lawyer with Washington-based law firm Stanch, Robinson & Lewis, which specializes in international asset tracing and has done work in Kenya and Pakistan.

"What you often find is that while there's a kind of political impetus that seems to want to do it, the reality is that the real urge for transparency is more symbolic than real," Lewis said.

For coaching corruption probes could feel the rumbles of senior military officials who are running the country in the transition period. Some now share a purge of Egypt's tycoons could make economic recovery hard, the political crisis more difficult.

Anticorruption campaigners are calling for a speedy investigation and are urging countries other than Switzerland to freeze assets preemptively.

The Mubaraks have never publicly discussed their assets. Hosni Mubarak's official monthly salary as president, counting benefits, came to 4,750 Egyptian pounds ($800), in 2007 and 2008, according to a Cairo think tank.

Rumors of hidden riches, such as expensive real estate in Britain, the United States and elsewhere, were fueled by the cozy ties between the Mubaraks and Egypt's business elite. The sale of state companies and public land for cheap, starting in the 1990s, were key sources of enrichment for the two elder, said Ahmed Elsayed Elnaggar, editor of Egypt's Economic Report. AP

Minor clashes as Bahrain 'Day of Rage' begins

MANAMA, Bahrain—Small-scale clashes erupted in two Bahraini villages as security forces tightened their grip on Shiite communities for Monday's "Day of Rage" protests inspired by upheavals in Egypt and Tunisia.

Foreigners exited over the capital Manama, where protesters were expected to gather in the afternoon, and police cars stepped up their presence in Shiite villages. Breaking up one protest with tear gas and rubber bullets. At least 14 people were injured in clashes overnight and on Monday.

Bahrain, where a Sunni family rules over a Shiite majority, has offered cash payouts in the run-up to the protest to prevent Shiite discontent from bubbling over as popular revolts spread in the Arab world.

"We call on all Bahraini people...men, women, boys and girls—to share in our rallies in a peaceful and civilized way in guarantees a stable and prosperous future for ourselves and our children," Bahraini activists said in a statement issued on Twitter.

"We would like to stress that Feb. 14 is only the beginning. The road map be long and the rallies may continue for days and weeks, but if a people one day chooses life, then destiny will respond."

Diplomats say Bahraini demonstrations, organized on the social media websites Facebook and Twitter, will be a gauge of whether a larger base of Shiites can be drawn on to the streets. The big test will be if demonstrations take hold in Manama, where demonstrations are rare.

Big protests in the Gulf Arab island state could embolden other marginalized Shiites in nearby Saudi Arabia, political analysts say. Reuters

In Tunisia, revolt may have been easy part

TUNIS, Tunisia—Rulers have threatened to stop making bogeymen useless, their salaries are increased. Lawyers demanding judicial independence protested outside the justice ministry. Unemployed miners slept in the halls of the headquarters of a phosphate mining company demanding more jobs.

A month after Tunisians toppled their authoritarian president, and a year after protests in Algeria and Jordan, many are discovering that may have been the easy part.

With restrictions on the media lifted and freedom of speech flourishing, the scab has popped on years of building up demands over everything from economic issues to other grievances.

Tunisians want ears between a desire to fully reinforce the economy of the previous government and a pining for stability.

Even as a fragile caretaker government begins the daunting task of rewriting the constitution and preparing for elections still months away, it faces a touch of immediate demands for jobs, economic improvements and security. The chief league of balancing revolutionary ideals with bread-and-butter issues may provide a glimpse of what lies ahead for Egyptians as their political transition unfolds.

"We are only starting now to think about the future," said Abdelwahed Hafiz, a former economic professor who heads the liberal Ettajdid Party. "The danger, he said, is that "the revolution...my dynamic can go on forever."

On Sunday, as sanitation workers cleaned up piles of garbage that had accumulated during weeks of disorder, Foreign Minister Ahmed Ounaies resigned after his staff refused to work with him. Ounaies "was not worthy of the revolution," one foreign ministry official was quoted as saying.

Among other perceived transgressions, Ounaies had reportedly refused to refer to last month's Jasmine uprising as a revolution.

As these events reveals the history the political battles have been turned to defining the past as much as creating a future.

At least 219 people were killed during the protests that led to the ouster of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, a UN investigation found. Others he fled into exile in Saudi Arabia on Jan. 14, he had ruled for 23 years.

"We don't want power ever to be that centralized again," Ben Hamdi said.

But a consensus on where to go from here is still far off. Politicians harassed under the old government, many of them Islamists, have been steadily arriving from European capitals where they lived in exile. The role of Islamists in the new order remains an open question in what has been a relatively secular society.

The government has appointed a commission to draft a constitution and says it expects to hold elections in five or six months.

Dozens of a more inclusive political system are interspersed with the desire for more and better jobs, a Tunisian version fulfilled in the lives of rioters, let alone during a tumultuous political transition.

The same groups of young people who last month mastered the streets shouting, "Get Out!" gathered on Saturday evening with a new chant: "Unemployed!"

"The unemployed gained nothing from the revolution," said Hamdi Tarek, 20, who works sporadically hawking vegetables and dodging on the streets of Tunis, she sighed. "We're still waiting. We are waiting for work."

The official unemployment rate is 14 percent but it is estimated to be as high as 30 percent in the impoverished and restive hinterland. New York Times News Service

TIP marks 49th Anniversary

The Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP) celebrated its 49th foundation anniversary last February 7 to 11, coinciding with the school Founder's Day. Activities for the celebration were held in TIP's two campuses, Manila and Quezon City.

The theme of this year's celebration was "TIP@49: A Community that Nurtures Values and Academic Proficiency." School officials said that with this theme, the community continued to celebrate the milestones that TIP has achieved in recent years like the autonomous and deregulated status awards from CHED for TIPQC and TIP Manila, respectively, the various accreditation levels for both campuses including seven (7) level IIIs for TIPQC from PAAP-PACUCOA, the five (5) centers for development from CHED, institution-wide ISO 9000:2008 certification and numerous board examinees including four (4) first placers in the last three years, as well as other achievements and awards.

An anniversary mass ushered in the celebration last February 7. This was followed by the opening of the science and technology fair in both campuses and various student activities spread throughout the week like inter-department quiz bees, sportsfests, cheer-dance competitions, field demonstrations and talent drills, musical-variety shows and dance contests, research contests, cultural shows, selection of the 2011 TIP Model Students and the traditional students' night that featured Pinoy Idol singer Erik Santos in concert.

A whole-day bloodletting drive for the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) on February 8 was one of the highlights of the celebration. Dubbed as "Operation Dugong Buhay: Ako Ang Chairman", this yearly humanitarian activity of the school was initiated by the TIP Founder and Chairman, Engr. Demetrio L. Quintos, Jr. since the school's inception. During her term as school president, Dr. Teresita U. Quintos, TIP co-founder and Vice Chair continued this worthy tradition. With the Chairman and the Vice Chair as prime movers of the bloodletting program in TIP, the drive has won for the school the yearly PNRC Bloodletting Unit Award more than 10 times on top of the National Blood Program Special Award. This year, 1,399 bags were donated to the Philippine National Red Cross.

Other foundation week highlights were the service awards for long-serving faculty and staff, the selection of TIP outstanding teachers, mini-alumni reunions that culminated in the big alumni homecoming to celebrate the golden year of TIP next year, and the Employees' Night with the Founder, the culminating activity that was held on February 11.

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IN THIS ISSUE
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- Global factors to push up PH inflation /B5

Editor Raul B. Mancao • Assoc. Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

P41:$1 seen in next 12 months

INDICATORS

Local stocks rally

LOSE, STOCKS rallied yesterday as the resignation of Egypt's President Mubarak after weeks of mass protests brought some relief to global financial markets.

The broad Philippine Stock Exchange index added 47.58 points or 1.23 percent to finish 3,786.71.

The index attempted to claw back to the crucial 3,800 mark but failed to close above this barrier as it was met by some resistance from profit taking.

Value turnover was thinner at P5.14 billion, which included a bulk of strong conviction to load up on equities by new foreign investors remained net sellers for the day to the tune of P580 million, based on the PSE daily report.

The property, wholesale, banking firms and financial counters led the day's upswing, respectively rising 2.2 percent, 1.47 percent, 1.26 percent and 1.1 percent.

The market also took a favorable cue from an assurance from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that inflation would not be overdone. Many analysts expect the BSP Monetary Board, at its Thursday conference, to be active igniting a total of 50 basis point increase in interest rates this year.

There were twice as many advancers as there were decliners (87 to 45) while 26 stocks were unchanged.

The issues that gained on heavy volume were Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI), Metrobank, Ayala Land, DMCI Holdings, JDC, Lopez Holdings, Jollibee, BDO, SM Investments, Semirara Mining, Ayala Corp. and SM Investments Corp.

On the other hand, PLDT, Aboitiz Power, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Filinvest Land, Megaworld, Cebu Air and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. led the losers.

Doris Z. Dumlao

Goldman Sachs expects BSP to raise rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO may appreciate to 41 against the dollar over the next 12 months as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will likely tolerate a stronger currency to better manage inflation and turn "hawkish" in its monetary policy, according to analysts from American investment banking giant Goldman Sachs.

In a research note issued right after the local central bank's monetary policy meeting last Thursday, Goldman Sachs said the BSP might raise its key interest rates, currently at record lows, by a total of 50 basis points in the second half of the year.

A further 100-basis-point increase in interest rates next year is anticipated by the investment bank, bringing the BSP's overnight borrowing to 5.5 percent by end-2012 from the current 4 percent.

"The tone of the policy statements has turned more hawkish," said the link. to research note written by Goldman Sachs analysts Shalini Saini and Enesh Pema.

A "hawkish" central bank refers to one with a bias for potential monetary tightening as opposed to a "dovish" policy stance.

The BSP has slashed key interest rates by a total of 200 basis points since a "dovish" cycle began in December 2008. It has kept monetary settings unchanged since July 2009.

The emerging hawkish tone, Goldman Sachs said, was implied in the BSP's statement that "the balance of risks to the inflation outlook has tilted further to the upside, with more risks expected in the near future" and "downside price pressures could develop in the near future as actual domestic output continues to expand above historical trend." It also cited the BSP's pronouncement that "a sustained strengthening of the peso should help temper the impact of imported inflation."

Goldman Sachs also noted

PESO /B2

Gov't sending power barges to supply-short Mindanao

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy is set to transfer three diesel-fired power barges to Mindanao by mid-May or June to help avert possible power supply shortages on the island this year.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said the government has identified the months following summer as a "critical period" for Mindanao as it anticipated lower water levels at the dams that fuel the hydropower facilities there.

As early as last year, the DOE had said that it expected a 56-megawatt power supply shortfall on the island within 2011.

According to Almendras, the planned transfer of power barges 101, 102 and 103 from Davao to Mindanao might take

committees 45 days to complete. The DOE, he added, has identified possible mooring stations to house the barges.

In case the power barges are put up for auction and bought by private companies before the planned transfer, the DOE may include another condition in the sale of these facilities.

The energy chief said the government was targeting to transfer potential buyers to transfer the power barges and station them to Mindanao for a certain number of years—or about 10 years as proposed by some members of the House committee on energy.

The transfer of the diesel power barges was meant to avoid the existing brownouts that Mindanao suffered last year, given to heavy reliance on hydropower

GOVT /B2

Diesel prices to rise, gasoline to be lowered

LOCAL OIL companies are expected to again increase prices of diesel within the week given the continued uptrend in the prices of oil in the world market.

However, other motorists can hope a ray of relief with an expected reduction in the prices of gasoline, according to Energy Undersecretary Jose Al. Layug Jr.

According to an independent oil player, a 50-centavo a liter increase in diesel is expected materializing with a 50-centavo a liter rollback in the price of gasoline.

The expected adjustment in diesel prices would follow a string of price increases since the middle of December last year, except only during the first week of February when oil companies implemented a rollback of 75 centavos a liter for gasoline and 25 centavos for diesel

and kerosene.

Documents from the Department of Energy showed that the price of Dubai crude averaged $96. a barrel as of Feb. 11, still up from last month's $93 average.

The price of refended gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also reached the $110 a barrel mark at an average of $109 in the Feb. 1-11 period from $106 a barrel last January.

MOPS-based diesel prices were similarly much higher at $111 a barrel from the January average of $1.09.

Local prices of premium unleaded gasoline ranged from P46 to P51 a liter, while diesel retails at P40 to P42 a liter as of last week. Kerosene prices ranged from P46 to P52 a liter as of Feb. 6. Amy R. Remo

Meralco says settlement with Napocor still pending

MANILA ELECTRIC Co. yesterday belied claims that the injunction order issued by the Court of Appeals nullified its P4.4-billion settlement agreement with a state power agency and would now raise power rates even within its franchise area.

In a statement, the distribution utility clarified that the injunction merely extended the 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO) that lapsed last Feb. 1, as of the appellate court is able to decide on the case concerning the settlement agreement. The injunction was also meant to prevent any further proceedings at the regional trial court so as not to render the petition filed by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) moot and academic.

Government lawyers have sought the voiding of the P4.4-billion agreement between state-owned National Power Corp. and Meralco because the settlement was "contrary to law, morals and public policy" specifically to pass-on provision, which would put an additional burden of 1.2 centavos a kilowatt hour on consumers.

It was in May 2006 that the OSG, acting as the People's Tribune, first filed before the Energy Regulatory Commission a motion asking the commission that it be allowed to intervene in the application and to file its opposition, after which the case was then elevated to the courts.

The petition filed before the ERC was for the declaration of the validity of the settlement agreement, independent of the said pending petition. Accordingly, the case proceedings for the contested settlement agreement were still in the pre-trial stage.

Meralco further clarified in its statement that the injunction was not meant to stop and invalidate the P4.4-billion settlement agreement that would

MERALCO /B2

SM Prime net profit up 12% to ₱7.9B in 2010

Cinema ticket sales surged 32% to P2.8B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S biggest shopping mall developer and operator SM Prime Holdings Inc. grew its net profit last year by 12 percent to ₱7.9 billion as robust local and office business sentiment cushioned a double-digit drop in revenues.

SMPH's revenues for the year rose 1% percent to ₱23.7 billion while cash flow—as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)—expanded 14 percent to ₱10.9 billion for an EBITDA margin of 47 percent.

The results included the operations of the three SM malls in China, which are located in the cities of Xiamen and Jinjiang in Southern China, and Chengdu in Central China, respectively. SM's shopping mall was acquired by the Philippine Sun Life Zhonggu ownership.

SMPH 2010 results were largely aided by the strong recuperation of consumer and the sustained high level of personal remittances (despite flows mainly by income earned by Filipinos abroad and election spending in the first half of the year. Reconciliations in Dubai, however, posted a 36-per-cent growth in combined gross revenues on the strength of China's economy, an improvement in the malls' occupancy rates and the expansion of SM City Xiamen through its high-end Lifestyle Center.

Company president Hans Sy also attributed the strong results to SMPH's resilience.

Consolidated rental revenues consumed 14 percent to the total, expanding 13 percent to ₱20 billion. The increase came from both new space and same-store rental growth of 8 percent. New rental space came from malls in Tarlac, San Pablo, Colombo and Manila but those opened in 2010 and added 276,000 square meters to the company's total gross floor area. Average occupancy remained at 94 percent.

Cinema ticket sales for the year likewise surged 32 percent to ₱2.8 billion as the widely deployed and successful digital movie ordeal dogs the new Imax Theater in SM North Edsa and the renovation of SM cinemas in, crossed 300 Prime's market share of local and foreign movies.

For 2011, SMPH plans to open three new malls in Mandaue (Antipolo) and Cebu with an estimated combined floor area of 5.7 million sq.m.

Still a 'sell on rally'

MARKET RIDER

Jun Saavedra

IF THERE is anything at this time that I would like to be wrong, it is on our net music that the market may not hit the 5,000 level.

When I brought this out last week, I was told the idea was terrible. That was not because it was a press mistake but due more to the bullish sentiment during late September, which sending your stock investor instantly into a gainfully lower.

Imagine, the market lost another 123.25 points in last week when it closed at 4,749.45 on Friday. See, the expectation of something good [illegible] drop slowly last week already hit the outstanding mood.

External factors

The impact of negative external factors was blamed for the market's continued deterioration. Market heavyweights like Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) was multiplied [illegible] at the end of trading last week when it closed at ₱34 a share.

ALI reported a significant increase in revenues contributed by strong residential sales and leasing business, but, was not by an improvement in commercial revenues.

In the session, its net operating income (NOI) margin improved favorably to about 74 percent from 49 percent.

In view of this information, leading stockbrokerage houses were agreed that the estimated fair market value of ALI should be no less than 50 percent more than its closing price of ₱34 last Friday.

Conversely, consider the stock price movement of Energy Development Corp. (EDC), Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. (MBT), Philex Mining Corp. (PX) and San Miguel Corp. (SMC), as mention a few more.

At the closing price of ₱8.74 a share, the stock before EDC closed 54.36-percent lower to ₱5.50 last Friday. The closing price was very close to the estimated support price of EDC at ₱5.46 a share with the estimated index being issued by less than 100 points the week before.

Hence, EDC's price would really drop further down to the next support price of ₱5.10 on another less than 100-point slide of the benchmark index.

This being the case, you may probably on the price of EDC going back to its regular price almost a year ago when the benchmark index reaches 3,500.

On the other hand, several MBT was exhibiting more trading strength than EDC last Friday, it may just likewise fall on the direction of EDC.

Looking at its valuation and value of transaction, MBT's closing price of ₱56.50 last Friday is still prone to further weakness. Its market price can very well break below the support price of ₱50.00 a share when the benchmark index hit 3,000.

The same fate is awaiting PX. With its closing price of ₱34.92 a share, its price pattern has not shown signs of bottoming out last Friday that's an easy to make price going down the ₱32, 1.5-peso basis.

Withstanding the barrage of good news supportive of SMC, its market price nevertheless was not spared from the impact of negative external factor.

Its planned offering of one billion common shares at the planned offer price of ₱100 to ₱120 was an inviting grace, as is good. The market believes in the market-trading ability of SMC's management than SMC's stock price held out at ₱ 175.50 a share last Friday.

The bullishness and the rapid stock prices is multiplied many times over in the case of speculative issues that had made recent spectacular advances like Lepanto and Rosario Weald Corp. (LR) and Belle Corp. (BEL). They can now down to about 40 percent of their peak prices.

Bottom line spin

Two prominent external factors were cited to have given the whole market a heavy beating last week. There were the ending to the rise of foreign investors triggered by the move of the Chinese government to raise interest rates for the third time in four months, last week indicating that a similar regime will prevail in the coming months and the threatening political turmoil in Egypt.

With the latter now out of the equation, many feel that the market is poor or less due for some rally. Many also believe that this may bring back the market's trade numbers to a critical 4,000 level and possibly beyond.

Having been used to a continuous one-hit climb in 2010 and for the most part of 2009, this proposal is very upsetting.

However, looking at the present situation in the market, I can't seem to see an 800-point move developments that can change market sentiments just yet.

Therefore, even if the market may not trade at the 5,500 level as I have described, and a modest rally may occur, our trading call for the week is still a "hold on only."

Making a difference

The New York Times ran a story on Sherry Chow who died on Sunday, Feb. 6, at the age of 66. Followed by most of us locally, Chow was proclaimed "America's most successful entrepreneur" by Fortune magazine in 1986 as he "helped reshape the computer industry" when he founded Original Equipment Corp. (OEC), the second-largest computer company "surpassed (only) in size by IBM."

Our present rules taken positive have personally worked only to those in those global companies, [illegible] other self-themselves OEC have and now would like to name a difference, but, in his own humble way is a kind reader of this newspaper and of this column, Pio Glen T. Rupes Jr. He is a PILAm, who in his words is your "Pan Kabisig, kolega at kapatid" and I extend to the progress of my native Philippines."

You may reach the Market Rider at [illegible]

P41:$1 seen in next 12 months

From page B1

that the BSP's new inflation forecast of 4.4 percent for 2011 (up from 3.8 percent) was lower than the investment bank's forecast of 5 percent but higher than the consensus view of 4.2 percent for this year.

"We continue to expect higher global commodities prices and the close of the output gap to intensify the upward pressures on inflation," the research paper said.

Output gap refers to the difference between the actual gross domestic product (GDP) or output of an economy and the potential GDP (efficient output). An economy which is running an output gap means it is either overworking (if the gap is positive) or underworking (if the gap is negative) its resources. A positive output gap is widely expected to lead to inflation as production and labor costs rise.

For this year, Goldman Sachs said it expected headline inflation to reach 5.6 percent by the second half of 2011, bringing the annual average inflation to 5 percent for 2012. Headline inflation is expected to average 4.6 percent. It expected was inflation to continue rising gradually over the next two years.

"We also believe the stocked bank is likely to tolerate appreciation pressure on the economy to anticipate the rising inflationary pressures from global commodity prices to domestic prices. This is also supported by the strong economic fundamentals and balance of payments position," the research said.

The bank recommended a long at 40 in the next three months and 41 in the next six months before rising to 41 against the dollar over a 12-month period.

Goldman Sachs expects the Philippines to grow its GDP by 5.2 percent this year and 5.7 percent in 2012, which is over opportunity from the consensus views of 5 percent for 2011 and 2012.

Meralco says settlement with Napocor . . .

From page B1

have allowed Meralco to pass on to its customers the ₱14.3 billion it owed Napocor.

The injunction order gave both the ERC and Meralco 30 days to submit their respective positions on the matter. The SAA then expected to resolve subsidies as not to grant the ERC's position to restore the issue to arbitration.

Hence, the injunction issued by the Court of Appeals could not have prevented Meralco from imposing extra charges on its customers in order to pay its ₱14.3 billion liability with the Napocor since it was not the subject matter of the proceedings before the CA or PEC, Meralco further said.

Despite its plan to impose refund charges on customers, Meralco claimed that the settlement agreement, which it stressed to be valid and binding, was actually meant to protect its customers from additional costs since Meralco only paid Napocor for electricity that was actually consumed.

The agreement between Meralco and Napocor was signed in 2003 in connection with the electricity that the distribution utility contracted to buy from the state-run local industries.

Napocor, which undertook to supply what Meralco required under a 20-year contract, had then received contracted obligations such as [illegible] power purchase agreements (IPPs).

— Amy E. Remo

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCY

Security Bank profit hits record ₱7.2B

By Doris C. Dumlao

SECURITY Bank chalked up a record high net profit of P7.2 billion in 2010, up 13% percent from the previous year, as large treasury gains complemented steady interest earnings.

The bank continued to a hefty 35 percent return on equity, output becoming more of its banking peers. Earnings per share last year amounted to P15.15, 89.5 percent higher than the level in 2009.

The bank disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Monday that total revenue rose by 65 percent to P12.9 billion, aided by P4.8 billion in trading and securities gains. Core revenues or interest by net interest earnings were likewise up by 1.6 percent to P6.1 billion.

"We clearly surpassed our targets for the year aided by the favorable environment that led to our recognizing the opportunities in the pass and did far local markets," Security Bank president Alberto Villarosa said.

The last quarter of 2010 was particularly favorable for emerging market assets, allowing the bank to better manage the interest rate and duration profile of existing bond portfolios.

"Notwithstanding the significant upswing in the one-time trading gains recognized, we are well on track towards ensuring that our recurring business segments scale them an equal share in the growth of core revenues without sacrificing our superior asset quality indices," he said.

The bank increased its loan portfolio last year by 6.6 percent to P74.5 billion.

As far as the lending business is concerned, the bank said it purposely focused on improving margins than solely gaining market share.

On the expenditure side, operating expenses net of provisions for credit and impairment (provisions stood at P4.7 billion in 2010), 19.6 percent higher than previous year's level.

Its stock of bad loans was capped at 3.09 percent of total portfolios while it also set aside buffer equivalent to 319 percent of these nonperforming loans as of end-2010.

Capital adequacy ratio to risk assets stood at 22.8 percent, much higher than the minimum requirement of 10 percent.

For awarding returns higher than bigger banks alongside better efficiency ratios, Security Bank was recently awarded "The Best Managed Company in the Philippines" Small Cap Corporate of the Year" by financial magazine AsiaMoney.

Semirara unit hikes capital to ₱10B

By Amy R. Borres

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved last month to increase in the authorized capital stock of SEM-Calaca Power Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Semirara Mining Corp., to P10 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Semirara Mining said that the board of SEM-Calaca had initially approved an increase in the company's capital stock to P8 million from P1 million.

In February 2008, SEM-Calaca's board recommended an increase in treasury syndicate to further take the capital stock to P10 billion.

Also approved by the SEC was the increase in the number of SEM-Calaca's directors to 11 from seven.

Last year, SEM-Calaca signed a P14-billion project debt facility to partially finance the acquisition of the 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant in Calaca, Batangas.

Proceeds from the term loan were then used primarily to refinance loans, shareholders' advances extended to SEM-Calaca for down payments of the power plant's 98 percent acquisition cost and prepayments made to Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.

A portion was also used to finance SEM-Calaca's permanent working capital requirements.

Partners First SEM-Calaca Holdings, which owns 56 percent of Semirara, won the bidding for the coal plant in July 2009 with a price offer of $347.7 million.

The first unique entity that formed SEM-Calaca to handle the coal facility, as well as to acquire, expand and maintain power generating plants, develop fuel for generation of electricity and sell electricity to any person or entity through electricity markets.

In December 2009, SEM-Calaca paid P506.85-$110.8 million, representing the 40-percent downpayment for the power plant, allowing it to assume ownership of the facility.

The company's investment in the Batangas coal facility are expected to reach $600.6 million, which includes the acquisition cost of $361.7 million. The remaining $121.09 million had been allocated for the rehabilitation and working capital requirements of the power plant.

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DCIS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

BID BULLETIN
(FOR THE SUPPLY OF PULL-TIGHT SEALS, CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES & STICKERS, SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES)

After the conduct of the Pre-Bid Conference to the abovementioned bidding activities, the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) agreed and resolved that (a) Bidders shall be allowed to submit written original copies or certified true copies of the documents needed for the bidding; and (b) the bid security shall be RETAINED.

This 14th day of February, 2011, in Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids and Awards Committee

EARL DR. DAVIT CENDA A. ATIENZA
Chairman

ATTY. BELINDA RIVERA
Vice Chairman

MELO T. LLORIN
Member

LOUIS D. COLOMA
Member

CYNTHIA B. DEL
Member

BAC-Ann 11-2011

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PNOC Exploration Corporation (b) ... B5
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INVITATION TO BID

PLAB—BIDS and AWARDS COMMITTEE (PLAB-BAC)

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	February 15 – March 02, 2011
Pre-bid Conference	February 23, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	March 3-4, 2011
Post-qualification	March 7-8, 2011
Post-qualification and Award	March 9-10, 2011
Notice of Award	March 11, 2011

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES PARISH HOLDS ITS ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION AT THE ONE ALGON PLACE RESORT

The St. Martin De Porres Parish of Adelia I, San Pedro, Laguna held its planning session at The One Algon Place Resort headed by Father Eldon Catindoy (far right), held on Jan. 28. For inquiries on retreats, teambuilding, seminars, outings, weddings, etc., The One Algon Place Resort is located at Brgy. Mahayhay, Calauan, Laguna. (02) 584-4301 or (02) 809-2457 / 09-17-833-5008 / (049) 563-2291. Please visit our website at www.algonresort.com.ph

MOST ACTIVE MEMBER AND PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS

TYSI admin. and finance manager Mary Rose G. Bañez is pose with PMAP president Jimmy M. Isaire, PPA Team Ventiler Systems, Inc. (TYSI) was awarded with Perfect Attendance and as One of the Most Active Members by the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) during its 52nd General Membership Meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City last January 26, 2011. These two awards considerably mark the company's invaluable contributions to the human resource management profession and the development of HR professionals as manifested by its active participation in PMAP-sponsored activities and its generous support to the programs and projects of the association. Furthermore, recognizing the company representatives' regarded presence in all PMAP General Membership Meetings in 2010, which the association finds to be a clear manifestation of the dedication, commitment and great interest in the value of continuing professional interaction and development, its current representative, admin and finance manager Mary Rose G. Bañez, is also an active member of the Fellowship Commission. The company's genuine commitment to the association's activities, functions, projects and other affairs has truly proved true the company deserves these awards.

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OBITUARIES

Col. Marcelo S. Talampas, Sr.

Joined his Creator on February 12, 2011 at the age of 84.

His family requests your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 6, of the Mortuary & Crematory of The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City after the 8:30 am mass.

In Loving Memory of Engr. BOANERGES RELATIVO

March 13, 1958 - February 14, 2011

Ret. Regional Director
Dept. of Public Works and Highways

We, his wife Alicia J. Lauria; children, Dr. Boanerges and Maria Elizabeth Delgado, Charmaine and Boss Abata, Maria Fides and Marlon Dy, Everette and Myra Zamora, Variola and Edgar Fajardo, Leilani and Joey Cubias, Alissa Sheila, mother-in-law, Felisa Lauria, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and in-laws request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Balogo, Sorsogon City, Sorsogon.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 19, 2011 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

Global factors to push up PH inflation

But BSP wins praise for interest rate stance

By Raoul M. Dumlao

MALACAÑANG'S GROWTH outlook for 2011 may itself get upward pressure on local commodity prices, which will push the cost of borrowing higher starting in the second quarter and again later this year according to the Institute of International Finance (IIF).

In a new research note, the Washington, DC-based global association of financial institutions said "rising world commodity prices and the outlook for economic momentum, to be sustained with a large fiscal stimulus ... suggest that upward price pressures will become more prominent."

The IIF said such factors will set the stage for a 25-basis-point hike in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy rate in the second quarter and another increase before the end of the year.

The BSP has maintained its rates despite fears among other Asian central banks about rising rates of strong food prices due to tight supply.

"Inflation fed the central bank has been late in raising policy rates seems incommitted with the economy's performance and prospects," the IIF said.

"Also, use of liquidity management measures and the appreciation of the exchange rate have also helped to reduce monetary inflationary pressures," it noted.

IIF officials maintain that the inflation rate "continues to be unexpectedly" said that the Philippines is not among the same kind of concern about inflation as exists in the other Asian countries.

As for economic growth targets, Malacañang has kept its goal of between 7 and 8 percent for 2011, although this year's national budget was drawn up with an assumption that growth is only pegged at 6 percent.

Last month, Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said that the government was working on annual growth that is higher than 6 percent.

"Our goal is really to hit levels that we hit in 2007 so we can reduce poverty and maintain the old thoroughbrace this term of President Aquino and beyond," Purisima said.

Last month, the National Statistical Coordination Board reported that the donors, to economy grew by 7.3 percent in 2010.

Low fares to boost Asia-Pacific air travel over next 4 years

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DOMESTIC AIR travel in the Philippines is expected to grow rapidly over the next three years, a trend expected by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Monday.

The Philippine domestic travel market is seen growing by an average of 19.2 percent every year until 2014, the industry group said, in line with the expected economic boom led by China in the Asia-Pacific region.

This follows a 12.27 percent growth in domestic passenger traffic—the total of 16.3 million passengers—in the Philippines, reported by the government last week.

Local officials said the availability of low fares offered by budget carriers, coupled with improving income levels, would continue to encourage more people to travel by air.

In its latest industry outlook, IATA said there would be 3.3 billion air travelers by 2014, up by 800 million from the 2.8 billion in 2009.

The biggest growth is expected to come from China, with both its international and domestic travel markets soon overtaking expanding faster than any other country in the world.

China will account for the highest annual growth rate of 13.9 percent (up to 2014) and contribute an additional 351 million passengers during the period.

Other countries expected to post double-digit growth rates include Vietnam (10.9 percent), South Africa (10.6 percent), India (10.5 percent) and the Philippines (19.2 percent)," the global industry group said.

"We are seeing good growth levels on account of our liberal policies and competition between airlines," Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) Director General Cosmelo Arcilla said in an interview.

He noted that the healthy growth levels in the last few years have made the Philippines an attractive market for regional airline giants such as Singapore's Tiger Airways and Malaysia's Air Asia.

"We are an archipelago and we have 94 million people. There's a big market so it's not surprising that our market can become attractive for international airlines," he said.

Meanwhile, IATA said China is also expected to be the fastest growing market for international passenger traffic at 10.6 percent. Other major markets are the United Arab Emirates (10.2 percent), Vietnam (10.2 percent), Malaysia (10.1 percent) and Sri Lanka (9.5 percent).

Oversold stocks attractive, investors told

By Doris C. Dumlao

DESPITE RECENT stumbling blocks, the bulls are still in play in the Philippines and the current "buyer's market" presents an opportunity to load up on quality stocks at a cheap price, stock experts from online brokerage Grass Online said.

Syed Ejaan Lee Tan, head of research at Grass Online, said in a press briefing last week that the market is poised for the next uptrend with an "oversold" the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index should sell for as much as 6,000 later this year or by 2012.

Among the good buys in the market, she said, were local banking giants Bank of the Philippine Islands, Banco de Oro Unibank and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., as well as property giants Ayala Land Inc. and Megaworld Corp.

Other "growth plays" cited by Grass Online were DMCI Holdings, Semirara Mining, Richest Asia, ICTSI, Alliance Global and Energy Development Corp.

"The weakness of the market was brought about by concerns that interest rates would have to go up to address the threat of rising inflation. Commodity prices have been increasing, raising inflation concerns," Lee Tan said.

"Foreign funds also started to flow back to developed markets such as the US given growing evidence against a double-dip recession," she said.

Lee Tan-Dulay Chief initiated analyst Jessie Bayawa said short- to medium-term recoveries were necessary to "build the base platform for the following upward swing."

Gov't . . .

plants. Mindanao sources more than half of its electricity requirements from hydropower resources, while the Agus-Pulangui hydropower complex providing more than 700 megawatts.

The prolonged drought experienced in the first half of last year had reduced water levels at the dams, drastically cutting the power-generating capacities of hydropower facilities by 40 percent.

In a bid to prevent this scenario from happening again, Almendras said that over the long term, he wanted Mindanao to have at least 500 MW in biofuel generation from sea hydro sources like coal to mediate the island from severe power outages and unstable supply as in the years before.

The government earlier received commitments from private companies to push through with their coal projects in Mindanao.

Aboitizon and Conal Holdings Corp. of the Aboitizes family would push through with the 200-MW coal facility in Davao del Norte, the first phase of which will be operational by 2012 while Phase 2 will be available by 2013. The same company he added, would put up another 100 MW coal facility in Zamboanga

Ayala Land to develop University Town for UP

The University of the Philippines (UP) Board of Regents has awarded to Ayala Land the contract of lease for the development of the 7.4-hectare UP Diliman East Campus Property, also known as the UP Integrated School (UPIS) property along Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City.

The development of the site presents a good opportunity to service the needs of the students, office workers and residents in the immediate vicinity. Ayala Land envisions this project as a University Town concept consisting of mixed-use retail, retail office components, with four residential support buildings. This Philippine development will be the first of its kind in the country to reflect a strong collaboration between academia and industry.

UP carried out a public bidding last November 2010 for the relocation and building of a new UPIS in a more suitable location within the main campus identified by the University, as well as the redevelopment of the existing site along Katipunan Avenue into a mixed-use facility. Ayala Land's proposal was declared as the most favorable bid.

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BUSINESS

Asian markets rise, but investors cautious over China inflation

HONG KONG—Asian stock markets rose on Monday, thanks partly to the easing of Egypt's political crisis, although there was unease about upcoming Chinese inflation data and oil prices remained high.

Tokyo's Nikkei gained 1.13 percent, or 110.89 points, to 10,720.34 despite data showing Japan's economy contracted 1.1 percent in the last quarter of 2010.

The data confirmed Japan had lost its 42-year spot as the world's number two economy to China.

The market partly responded to a modest gain on Wall Street on Friday, where optimism about US economic prospects was compounded by relief at the resignation of Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak after weeks of unrest.

Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 ended 1.22 percent, or 54.9 points, higher at 4,595.6, its highest finish in 30 months.

Shanghai's Composite Index was up 2.84 percent in the afternoon after data showed exports and imports surged in January, while the trade surplus fell 53.6 percent to $6.45 billion, providing a boost to the country's growth prospects.

However, investors have an eye on January inflation data due on Tuesday, with many nervously hoping the figure might fall short of 5 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng climbed 1.87 percent in the morning, led by property developers, although the rise was largely a rebound from a 6.5-percent fall by the market last week.

Oil oil markets, front North Sea crude surpassed the $101 mark as traders remained wary of more pro-democracy protests in the Middle East following Mubarak's departure, analysts said.

In other markets:

- Seoul closed 0.49 percent, or 10.46 points higher, at 2,134.10.
- Taipei rose 0.98 percent, or 79.61 points, to 8,065.47.

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China new world's No. 2 economy

TOKYO—Japan lost its 42-year ranking as the world's second biggest economy in Dec to 2010, with data out Monday showing a contraction in the last quarter due to weak consumer spending and a strong yen.

While Japan was expected to fall behind a surging China in the year, the data underlined the weak state of a Japanese economy battered by deflation, soft domestic demand and pressured by the industrialized world's biggest debt.

"It is difficult for the deflation-plagued Japanese economy to achieve self-sustained growth," said Naoki Murakami, chief economist at Mizuho Securities.

While China's leap forward reflects a shift in economic power to the country would's export front, poverty-hit nonetheless sure to global heavyweights, a high-lights the need for shrinking Japan to energize its economy, analysts said.

Japan's post-war "economic miracle" put it as number two behind the United States for more than four decades, but stagnation after the Japanese property bubble burst in the 1990s helped put China on course to surpass its neighbor.

However, Japan remains around 18 times richer on a per-capita basis, noted top government spokesperson Yukio Edano. GDP per head in Japan is around $42,000, he economists.

Pessimists say as to when China may overtake the United States as number one economy, but it should happen by 2020, according to estimates by the World Bank, Goldman Sachs and others.

Japan's real gross domestic product slipped by an annualized 1.1 percent in the October-December quarter as the reopening of auto subsidies hit car sales, a new to-bacco tax capped cigarette demand and a strong yen hurt exports.

In contrast, China grew nearly 10 percent in the same period.

While Japan's first contraction in five quarters was not as severe as forecasts of a 2.4-percent slide, the data is subject to con-siderable revision.

The economy grew 3.9 percent in 2010, its first annual growth in three years. But this was not enough to keep it ahead of surging China.

Nominal GDP of $5.474 trillion in 2010 put Japan behind China's $6.879 trillion, the data showed. China first eclipsed Japan in the second quarter.

Despite Japan rounding out of a severe year-long recession in 2009, its recovery is minus fragile with deflation, high public debt, an aging population and a strong yen all concerns for policymakers.

Premier a on Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who has seen his approval ratings tumble as the government looks to boost the economy without deepening the debt amid a big inflation impasse over a $1.1 trillion budget for next fiscal year.

Last month, Standard & Poor's cut Japan's credit rating one notch to "AA" from "AA," saying the government lacked a "coherent strategy" to ease a debt running over 200 percent of GDP, the highest of any developed nation.

AFP

JAPAN'S highest peak, Mount Fuji, looms over high-rise buildings of Tokyo's Shinjuku district. Japan confirmed Monday that China's economy surpassed its own as the world's second largest in 2010 and said a less year-dominance was Japan's first quarterly contraction in more than a year. —

Sony takes console battle to mobile phones

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6) Winners will be notified via registered mail and names will be published within ten (10) weeks from draw date.
7) Selected top five prizes exceeding Php 15,000 will be shouldered by the winner. Prizes are non-transferable and must be claimed within 60 days from date of receipt of notification or else prize will be forfeited with prize DTI approved.
8) A participant can only win once.
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10) Winners can claim their prizes at the Goodyear Philippines office by presenting their consumer copy of the Confidence Warranty card and their official receipt as proof of purchase and their ID valid IDs could be allowed as driver's license, PRC license, company ID, school ID, postal ID, SSS ID and TIN card. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at Goodyear outlets nationwide.

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See point 4 and 5 on for details

Always ask for your

KIA IS 2011 LE TOUR DE FILIPINAS MAJOR PRESENTOR

Kia Motors is the major sponsor of the 2011 Le Tour de Filipinas, an international cycling marathon organized under the aegis of Pedpak Pinoy and the only one officially sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale. The four-day event, featuring top cyclists from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas competing for top honors, will run off April 16 and end April 19, 2011. Kia's participation in the cycling marathon is part of the company's worldwide commitment to support sport activities that will help boost brand recognition. Shown at the sponsorship contract signing held recently are (from left to right) Federico C. Santos, Jr., Columbian Autocar Corporation's (CAC) Marketing Service Manager; Felix J. Mabilog, Jr., President and COO of CAC; Alberto D. Lina, Overall Chairman of the Le Tour De Filipinas and Edgardo H. Cayton, Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

LIFESTYLE Wellness

FIT TO RACE. Marlon Stockinger prepares for the GP3 series with a combination of cardio and strength training workouts plus a strict carbo-and protein diet.

How Marlon Stockinger keeps himself fit for speed

By Jes Rapa
Lifestyle

WHAT DOES it take to sit behind the wheel of a very fast car? For Marlon Stockinger, the 19-year-old Filipino-Swiss racer out to 2010, the first Filipino to win a Formula race in Europe, the road to becoming a full-fledged Formula One racecar driver demands a level of fitness akin to that of an Olympic athlete.

He's been preparing for it for nearly half his life. Stockinger, who had impressive climbs in the three-kart-ing circuit and Junior Formula Cars in Asia and Europe since he began his motorsports career at the age of 9, is devoting his next few years to racing in the GP3 and GP2 series, ideal training grounds for the prestigious Formula One series.

So, while his team of mechanics and engineers fine-tune his car, a BWT Dallara single-seater chassis with a 3.4-liter naturally aspirated Nissan engine, Stockinger takes charge of his overall health.

He trains four to five hours a day, splitting time between cardiovascular and weight-training exercises. For an hour-long bout, he hikes at a pace to build his lungs and heart, pushing the latter to around 140-170 beats per minute. "Which I think is average is just as high as a marathon runner's heart rate during a race," he says.

It's gentle on his knees, which apparently keep the heart rate later his final hike. He speeds of up to 500 mph. "you have the G force acting," he explains, "so you press about 75-80 kilos of weight on your brake pedal." How imagine doing that on a race track with 20 turns.

Explosive training

He also strength-trains, executing high repetitions with low weights, and relies on

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Hottest toning exercises in town–which one's for you?

By Mitch Felipe Mendoza
Correspondent

MORE AND more independent fitness studios are emerging as response to the trends and the growing fitness market.

While big health clubs offer various forms of fitness activities, these studios specialize in one particular form or brand of toning exercise: have yoga class, pure yoga class, Pilates, boot camp, pole dancing, inline workout, kettlebell workout.

Regardless of the fitness modalities and exercise areas, worldwide fitness trends are consistently being followed and becoming readily available to exercise consumers in the country.

As consumers and exercisers, you need to identify which exercises can answer your needs and goals and help you achieve an exercise lifestyle without compromising safety.

At the start of the year, silver medalist Efren "Bata" Reyes, 56, decided to exercise from any long-run training and mixed different forms of exercises for toning, strengthening and improving eye sport.

BETTLEBELL WORKOUT

MANIS class

More and more cable ... leg produced for a ... which can be used by large ... cardio fitness, strength, ... ability to join our members ... There are various modal ... gym or as a standalone ... dio. You can perform a ... controlled motion while ... all your muscle groups a ... shoulders, arms, core and ... more advantageous you ... routines with your lower b ...

One of the hottest cable ... able on the market is the ... (by Technogym), a 360 ... system that allows you to ... all types of cardiovascular ... moves. You can do all ... pulling and rotational ... your whole body with one ... I just tried a 20-minute ... on at the Core Elevation ... body workout was really ... on exercises while's low ... on a regular basis.

Email the author ...

Barre-type training

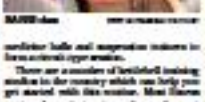
If you've been doing yoga and Pilates for quite a while and would like to experience variety and apply some ballet-style moves to your routines, then it's time to try some barre exercises.

The class usually starts with a few minutes of light dumbbell workout, followed by a full body weight workout using various equipments, and ended with some yoga and Pilates/balance type moves.

Barre-type class offers many benefits such as improving flexibility, full body strength, core control and posture. It uses lower, Pilates ball, mats, a pair of lightweight dumbbells (2.5 lbs), and a mat to augment with the flexibility routines and challenge with toning moves.

The intensity of the workout can be raised by adding small movements while holding the postural different moves. For example, doing some squats from a ball squat, then progressing to a full squat with heels lifted and in ballet.

Like yoga, Pilates and other exercise



MANIS class

routines while ending an effort to relax your shoulder and upper body muscles and use your hips in moving the kettlebell.

However, if you are a beginner and experiencing joint problems, it's best to delay this type of training until you are cleared by your doctor. Build up your whole body strength since the moves are quite fast, explosive and jerky. Get a qualified trainer to assist you in the execution.

Doing some repetitions of the basic moves such as swing, snatch, clean and press can improve and challenge your muscle and heart. Initially, you can do three sets and lower body muscles such as the quadriceps, back of thighs or hamstrings, inner thighs, lift other fingers to work on those muscles, which are responsible for preventing injuries and improving daily activities and sports.

Kettlebell workout can best be combined with other functional training workout using equipment such as cables, dumbbells, medicine balls and suspension trainers to form a circuit-type session.

There are a number of kettlebell training studios in the country which can help you get started with this routine. Most fitness gyms have instructors who underwent kettlebell training and can show and coach you the moves properly.

Functional training

Cable machines are becoming more popular nowadays because exercisers are preventing functional training in their fitness and changing their fitness programs from intense body building to sports conditioning and core training.

How Marlon Stockinger keeps himself fit for speed

From page C1

the explosive training that Ian Seng offers to ensure a quick recuperation.

"I like training because it's a fun sport that relaxes slowly to racing since you use the same muscles," he says.

"It's always good when you find something you enjoy doing as a form of relaxation. The more you like it, the longer you'll be in the gym, and the more you can train without feeling the pain."

By the way he looks, his efforts have clearly paid off, and Stockinger credits his strength coach Max Thurmer and Ed. Carrie's Joey Explico to thank for success upping him to the pinnacle.

As for his diet, it's a strict mix of carbohydrates in the morning, protein and fats in the afternoon and evening.

"So I can have a really big, fat steak with a nice sauce and veggies in the afternoon, but not the night," he says with a grin. "But I can't take an iron once a day or I'm that in the morning."

Favorite Pinoy dishes

The regimen changes, however, when Stockinger, now based in Switzerland, spends Christmas with his family and friends in Manila.

"Watch, adobo, sinigang," he enumerates cheerfully when asked about his favorite Filipino dishes. "Ulam Sunday-Sunday."

He's in pretty good shape—you have to be when you're required to wear a heavy helmet and drive open-cockpit cars for grand climbing and stopped in a matter of a night "your lungs can't expand to their full capacity," says Stockinger.

The current driver's seat, by the way is no cramp; his knees reportedly hit the cockpit, and for the slightest corners, like a slight left turn, leave him with bruises on his elbows.

Still, nothing compares to the real hardships he's had to endure. For this 30 year-old, loneliness is a constant companion. Next to a caravan, "I've become closer for most of my life," says Stockinger. "I'm really close and so often, pilots and test drivers complain' him from his last trip.

Save for his two sweet Christmas break in Manila, he lives away from family and friends for most of the year. At 21, he moved to a boarding house for young international drivers in England. Seven months ago, he went to live with his paternal grandmother in Switzerland.

And though he's been just about everywhere around the world, he's riskier in his hotel room as driving around a race track is a destination far from the city proper.

"It was tough living alone. I was thrown into the deep end," he admits of his year and a half in England. "It was not an easy transition."

Mom Explo remembers the time when Englund's brutal winter triggered an outbreak at such as low sickness of three kids.

"Luckily he had the presence of mind to call the paramedics," she says. "It was the most nightmare of my life. I was very big desperately because I wasn't ... help him but I was in the ...

It certainly doesn't help that the sport he has devoted his life to can leave him frustrated at times. Stockinger recalls how he was running third in a race when his engine suddenly died.

"I would have run the podium," he shrugs. "People don't realize that one is a team sport, a joint effort, and that there are so many factors that could contribute to a win or loss. Only in your car could I fall off and that's the end of your race."

JUST UP Marlon does his pre-race layout of his grand climbing car kit's greatest blocker controls his movements as well

FOOTHOLD: Lucas's first Filipino Six-Pi and with successful podium finishes left, right Sterling and Formula Renault races in Europe, Marlon Stockinger is ready for the big races.

Decompressing

If anything, racecar driving has made a man out of him. Not only has Stockinger learned to multitask (drive, shift, brake, fix groceries, and pick up after himself), he's also gained a keen perspective of his situation.

"I've about a lot but if that's for the sake of doing what I love to do, I don't mind," he says.

When he's not racing, he's at home to combat and discuss, paces. Abroad, he likes hanging out in clubs and bars, but in Manila, you'll find him at home spending as much time as he can with his mom, dad Tom, and younger brother and sister, his greatest source of support.

To succeed in motorsport, Stockinger believes a driver should be a balance between skill and opportunity.

"You have to deal with high-pressure situations while being considerate of the same time," he says.

He also have to have the ability be it. Stockinger remembers that frustrating point well. He was 9, and while no general interest in racing, his dad, a weekend go-kart racer, brought him to the track one day and set him behind the wheel of a little go-kart. Magic.

"It was like a door opened," he says. "Suddenly, I felt at peace, like I wanted to pursue it more and more. That necessary to add to steal for me. It was a life-changing experience."

What, really, are soulmates?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

WHERE DID the idea of soulmates originate?

More than 20 years ago, a well-known former TV host and newspaper columnist asked on her TV program, "Where did this concept of soulmates come from anyway? Who started it?"

I don't think anybody can answer that. But the idea of having a perfect partner for medical or moral have originated in the writings of great thinkers and philosophers of ancient times, even predating Jesus Christ by centuries.

The great ancient Greek philosopher Plato (427-347 BC), devoted one of his famous dialogues to the topic of "Love." In the "Symposium" several friends of Socrates gathered in the house of Agathon to discuss about love.

When his turn came to speak, the well-known comic satirist Aristophanes related how the gods were split into two by the Olympian god, Zeus. According to him, originally there were three sexes...men, women and the union of the two, called "androgynous."

Universal man, he said "had four hands and four feet, one head with two faces, four ears, two privy members (genitals) and man round, with his back and sides forming a circle."

The Anthropoids' beings were very strong, ambitious and proud. They tried to scale Mount Olympus and attacked the Gods. As punishment, Zeus split them into two to weaken them and increase their numbers as they would be more profitable for the gods, because more people would pay homage to them.

When the division," wrote, and the androgynous "the separate of man, each desiring its other half, came together, embrace for most of my life," says Stockinger. "I'm really close and so often, pilots and test drivers complain' him from his last trip.

Save for his two sweet Christmas break in Manila, he lives away from family and friends for most of the year. At 21, he moved to a boarding house for young international drivers in England. Seven months ago, he went to live with his paternal grandmother in Switzerland.

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Properly understood, the concept goes much, much deeper than mere romantic love

The Definition I have adopted comes from the American psychic and prophet Edgar Cayce, who died in 1945.

According to him, soulmates are two souls who, after a series of incarnations on earth, become so close to each other that their destinies become intertwined; they become helpmates to one another in their soul evolution. That's why soulmates are, indeed, "masters of the soul."

The concept of soulmates, properly understood, really goes much, much deeper than mere romantic love with which it has been popularly associated.

A soulmate in our life helps you and educes you help achieve a higher level of soul evolution until you both reach perfection and union with God. And this can be achieved over a series of lifetimes together, and not just in a single lifetime.

The idea behind soulmates is therefore, very much tied up in the concepts of karma and reincarnation.

Talk of soulmates is swirling, less without karma, reincarnation and soul evolution. That's why we seldom are with our soulmate in our given lifetime, although we may have already met in past lives.

A soulmate is one who helps us share in our wholeness and unity with the entire creation.

Each time I conduct a Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation session, I graduate a group of people who hopefully now have a greater understanding of the concept of the inner psychic and cosmic secrets of it.

The concept of soulmate has, indeed, evolved since the time of Plato (427 years before Christ, yet it remains essentially the same.

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7 ways to keep the heart and other organs healthy

MAKE A FIST. That is roughly the size of your heart. It is, as many doctors agree, the most important organ of your body—certainly the hardworking. Nevertheless specialists agree that the best organ to go to at the moment of certain death is the heart.

Our lives today are moving at a change-ready, almost speed, heck-to-use. Nonstop, multitasking, and day-by-day stress are advancing the aging process. But why settle always in a rush?

Here are ways to take care of our hearts and other body organs.

1. Avoid objects unhealthy and, worse, unproven is called "STOP, PING (STOP." Others will do it, unfortunately. Try to stop outside of yourself. Try to doing you love, more as discovery of yourself, more than things, your life and circumstances.

Do you know what is a cord, and one of the major causes of illness today? Emotional stress. If you are in the midst of an emotional crisis, under a deal, learn to steer yourself by getting out of your situation through a unique K.I.S.S. exercise.

Inhale for 4 counts. Hold for 7 by 11. Close your eyes and follow your mind to think. Throughout with your eyes closed, pass judgment on them. Just let them drift along the stream of your consciousness.

Now focus on yourself, once the "you" that is smiling. Relax and observe that little you as you move about in your own universe. Hold that feeling. Stay calm and quiet, as for 5 to 10 minutes. Then open your eyes.

2. Clean out main building in your body. Undergo a colon cleanse. Sign up for seven days at Tri-Home in San Benito or do your own colon cleansing at home. Try red juice, which has 26 fruits and vegetables and nutrients. Within 10 days your blood sugar, cholesterol and weight problems will improve. This cleanse is an overall maintenance. (Call Dr. Jones for more information at 1-800-[illegible])

3. Do a liver/gallbladder cleanse. Always use a colon cleanse, run for two weeks and begin with an oral organic using herbal preparation which you can order at home. (Call Dr. Jones Life of Health, tel. [illegible])

4. Have a kidney and bladder cleanse. A natural nutrition practitioner can guide you through this maintenance. There is herbal release assist control pill, headaches, eye straining. Use distilled oil to use included for less than 48 hours. Juice, unsweetened coconut water cleanse of 32 glasses between 12 glasses of water. This glass hormone receive birds or fowl sanitizing—relies on herbal tea, salt solution in cups of the medulla. Within 24 hours low water cleanse, after which 3 ordered low-sugar diet.

5. Have a prostate cleanse. Everyone has a problem inside there. Even if you are in denial about this, have colon cleanse every two months, at least, and follow an extensive prostate. Try a pure, nonsapping cleanse using a naturopathic practitioner or extensive regimen. (Multivitamin from Jacksonland, tel. [illegible])

6. Do a deep/candida cleanse. In this day and age of antibiotic the natural yeast bacteria in the body are killed. Thus, the need to replenish them. Without probiotic help we actually die. Surgeon will thrive and deprive the insurance system.

7. Try lymphatic drainage. The lymph is the garbage collector of the body. Its job is to pick up waste from the body. Give it a little help through lymphatic massage. (Call your favorite spa or visit Dial Spa/ Sassy Sp, tel. [illegible]).

A heart-friendly cleanse

Lemon Juice of ginger

Why are we always in a rush?

my readers from the body. Give it a little help through lymphatic massage. (Call your favorite spa or visit Dial Spa/ Sassy Sp, tel. [illegible]).

A heart-friendly cleanse

Lemon Juice of ginger

2 medium-sized
1 green apple
2 carrots
Juice and drink

Reference: "Natural Cures Revealed" by Doris Trudeau

Part II - Next Week

Gary Quinlan

Beating infections, secondhand smoke, muscle-building

THE RESULT to wellness may have obstacles, but there are ways to circumvent them. This is the message of the homicide, not of Healthy Options Lifestyle Strategies, with the novel theme "Live Immortal, Inc."

Read articles on other diseases here: how to get the most from your workouts; how to bolster your body's defenses against infections; what to do to avoid the health risks of living exposed to secondhand smoke; books that may help calm or strengthen the heart; low light may encourage sleep, too.

Publisher Kenny Ilo considers us what people are really in to in their lifetime to be creative, loved by those they leave behind. "The goal we do for real, mean."

Check out "The Power of Knowing" in the Natural Health section and "More than Muscle Building: Why Body Building Is a Healthy Option" in the Weight Loss section. Learn about the seven steps to success in body building.

As an interesting note here we do have artificial lighting may be altering the way you sleep, wake up, do vehicle locations sleep deprivation and health problems.

Healthy Options Lifestyle Strategies is available free to members of Healthy Options stores. For more information, visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

Sleep Soundly

with HomeWorld's quality pillows and mattresses

Sound sleep starts with shedding the cares of the day and allowing oneself to re-charge in the welcoming comfort of one's private retreat. SM Homeworld's Bed and Bath Sale - now thru February 28 - showcases a wide selection of pillows and mattresses aimed at meeting the bedding needs of SM shoppers.

Buying a mattress?
Here are a few tips on what to look for:
+ Comfort - luxurious upholstery layers
+ Support - more spring counts
+ Value - shop for the best value; not the lowest price.

Selected Ambassador top of the line mattresses are available at 10% off regular prices at SM Homeworld's Bed and Bath Sale until February 28.

Wake up to a new day with Ambassador

Ambassador mattresses are noted for their durability, luxurious damask fabric, comfort and orthopedic attributes.

More springs, more comfort with Slumberland

Sleep like a baby on a Slumberland mattress designed with at least two times more springs than ordinary mattresses.

Each spring is knitted to its neighbours. The inner spring links disperse the weight of the sleeper along the spring towel, hence enhancing comfort and body support.

Selected Slumberland mattresses are pegged at up to 20% off at all SM Homeworld stores now thru February 28.

Slumberland Dextrace 800 Plus (below left) is designed with multiple springing system that is layered with anti-static lining, edge stabilizer and ample ventilation.

The Slumberland Intimacy 60x75 Mattress (below right) has a tufted pillow top with 1,600 combated posture springs, JOMA wool and gamated cushioning.

Therapasture comfort with Salem

Salem mattresses are engineered to provide over all support and protection to the spine. They are also fire retardant and water resistant.

Salem mattresses showcased during the Bed and Bath Sale this February are discounted at 10% off their regular prices.

Buy 1 Take 1 on selected branded pillows

Canadian Fiber-fill 20x30 bed pillows

Ultima Suite Collection Memory foam 2-in-1 bed pillows

P125 pillow specials

Take home a pair or more of assorted printed pillows with pump filling for only P125 each.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edita Ermita G. Velarde

No text votes for 'OPM@Pagcor' talent search

By Pachoko Concepcion

THE BEST thing about it is that there won't be any text votes to determine the winners. Ogie Alcasid describes the newly launched singing contest "OPM@Pagcor" as "an advocacy." He says it's all about finding genuine Filipino talents who will hopefully comprise the country's next generation of pop stars.

Michael, president of the local singers' group Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM), came with his fellow officers Hard Calimayan and Dingdong Avanzado to the contest's press con held at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) office in Cuneta Pavilion yesterday.

"We initiated the project and approached Pagcor," Calimayan, OPM's vice president for external affairs, told the in-tertainment. "We felt the resources to mount this on a nationwide scale and we felt Pagcor would be receptive to the idea."

This enough, the contest is getting fans into the beauty of the project, and the opportunities it offered. Pagcor will have first crack in discovering the talents who will join the competition, Alcasid said, but the successful dimply adhered by the opening of Resorts World. Pagcor intended to tweak its image and the singing contest might give it a new boost.

HYB Awards nominee Tanya Montoya

Musical entertainment

For the past several years, Pagcor has been offering financial reimbursement fees in its casinos promoting veterans and young performers.

In hiring of Bong Quintana as musical vice president for entertainment is a strategic move to have access to as many music acts as possible, given his links with Bro. Armida's cultural and public relations firm Backstage where he used to work.

Apparently he played a key role in convincing Pagcor officials to consider the merits of joining forces with OPM to the contest.

"The contest has good intentions and we have high hopes for it," said Quintana. He added that he's happy with his job. "[There are] allowed to gamble," he quipped.

"OPM@Pagcor" is formally titled as "A Nationwide Search For the Total OPM Performer" because the finalists will undergo workshops and training sessions with music professionals to prepare them for their possible careers.

"It will be like a reality show without the live TV coverage," Quintana said.

Apart from the chance to learn from the country's music gurus, the grand prize winner will receive P500,000 cash, an album deal with a major record label, and another contract to perform at Pagcor's Casino Filipino branches.

The second place will take home P300,000 while the third placer will get P100,000.

The talent search is open to all amateur Filipino singers or persons with dual citizenship who are at least 18 years old. Applicants for the competition should not have won any major prize in any nationwide singing competition.

Contestants may sing any local composition in Filipino, English, Visayan or other languages.

Deadline for submission of applications is on March 10. Auditions officially start on March 15, 2011 at Filipino theaters. Other audition venues are the Casino Filipino Angeles in Manila Peninsular, Tagaytay, Bacolod, Cebu and Davao.

The top two winners from the regional Casino Filipino competitions will qualify for the finals and performances workshop from May 1 to 4.

Grand finals will be on June 26 to be held at the Pagcor Grand Theater, Casino Filipino Parañaque.

Log on to pagcor.ph/opm@pagcor.php or call 833-9874 or 832-7721 or 832-7946.

'Organik Musik' concert tour

Joey Ayala and his former bagong Lahing bandmates Popoy Landero and Chito Ballang played together again at the Main Theater lobby of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to ready for the premiere of "Organik Musik"— a concert tour moment in conjunction with the 2011 Philippine International Arts Festival.

The event is part of the National Arts Month program of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

"Organik Musik" has shows and workshops scheduled on Feb. 11 and 12 at the Mindoro Town Square, Davao; Feb. 20 and 21 at Rizalcubation, Puerto Princesa, Palawan; and Feb. 25 and 26 at Silliman

(DETAILS D2)

Manila-bound Stone Temple Pilots goes classic rock

By Manny Dujmich
Cool Buzz

Stone Temple Pilots
"Stone Temple Pilots"
Atlantic

At most in the album opens with the drums-rock lead-in "Between the Lines" and frontman Scott Weiland shouts, "There isn't no single person get back what you lost," you know STPs spin down world's most distant memory lane has been fruitful for the band. With an almost literal resurrection of a newly discovered past, guitarist Dean DeLeo unleashes riffs and rhythms using vintage gear—a Sola Sound tone, Hiwatt, '70s Gibson Les Paul and Gretsch—Dwyer, the heavy hitter, of classic rock and especially country should pay not any line giving compliment that other, the god of grunge died and his own spirit evaporated, so did the wellspring of the Pilots' musical mojo.

Sting
"Symphonicities"
Universal

REVIEW

The Grammy album every set is fair warning, radical revealing from rock to Mob orchestra, as 9-to-five layabout may attend to my story. And Police lone-solo still Sting headed his hunt for writings when he went solo, definitely need to move on. But for those who feel the movement from post-punk to pop-phonic symphony is appropriation, the 57-year old savoir legend's "Symphonicities," 12 tracks of orchestral conclusion of Police and solo singles, of the new just as intelligent, utterly commanding musical exploration, but an evidently new wealth of musical to imagination.

Cuhood & Cardrix
"Star Of The Mall Number, "Roadrunner"

This is winner. Action as told to rock 'n' roll songs that incorporate your, horror narrial hardcore, and progressive rock. Imagine the continuum but can't listen to a double-CD collection double. The Radio Dept.'s "Passive Aggressive Singles 2000-2007" is an intoxicatingly multilayer compromise you can groove on without getting a headache. The here are the chaos is the so-called multithinking soundtrack takeaway was Grok, weird-techno, surf-the-net, horn-sax, anything, while a "Beat Off" collection is playing in the background.

If it surpasses the artfully tradeyou smile, nod, or feel fuzzy, are in general), buy it. If at any point in the collection you want to yawn "sure," avoid like the chronic plague.

Trini Lopez rocks, Yvonne Elliman disappoints, Dan Hill saves the day

Text and photos by Rustan Cornejo

TRINI LOPEZ sounded edgier in his first few numbers, even at a 76-piece all-Filipino band was backing him up at the Araneta Coliseum.

REVIEW

He was in deep form in "Malapalitin Ikaw," which he introduced as the first song he learned to perform at age 8, taught by his singer-actor father. Trini closed his eyes and felt the song's unrequited love theme with such sadness that his baritone sounded like a mournful soul.

He led his audience back to a musical era marked by pop standards when Sweet Jane took to sail with a Latin flavor. The results dragging rhythms provided by the all-Pinoy band, conducted by Trini's musical director and bass player Robert Wilt, rollicking to a mixed bag of steamy calypso, gospel and folk classics: "Lemonie Mo," "Mary Anne," "Down By the Riverside," "This Land is Your Land."

In that point, Trini couldn't do anything wrong, singing and playing his self-designed Gibson "Trini Lopez Standard model guitar while swinging his body like he was ten 75 years old.

A very kind audience

The next night we were back at the Big Dome for "Love Nocks," a Valentine-concert featuring Stephen Bishop, Dan Hill and Yvonne Elliman. Sadly, the show didn't live up to our expectations.

In fairness, it was admirable to have another all-Pinoy band (Dawn in front) backing up the headliners. But the problem lay in the show's production, handled in this instance by a certain J. Hildreth who also acted as emcee.

His jarring female duskers were an eyesore, both in their gamp and especially their leaves. Plotting their limpwrist what looked like sabaers sayle steps while Yvonne sang "If I Can't Have You" made us wonder if they knew the song was a "No-Man" theme.

Emcee Hildreth no sitter of disappointment as she navigated to hit the notes in "I Don't Know How To Love Him," and

STEPHEN Bishop

TRINI Lopez (left), Dan Hill and Yvonne Elliman

then ordering the band to play it all over again in a busy key. But she managed to overcome what would've been a disastrous performance by singing Brad Fiedel's "Can't Help Fifty Thing Doing" in acoustic guitar.

Stephen, now bulging in the middle like Santa Claus, also struggled in the high notes, though not as embarrassing as Yvonne.

Dan turned out to be the show's liberator. He has aged well, and he knows how to play the piano with his wiggly (dilfed) pants for the first time, we heard "Sometimes When We Touch" set to a funky light, but rather in a poignant way.

The crowd, by the way, gave such performers warm applause. They were a very kind audience.

One for the books

A RECENT "POV" (Point-of-view) magazine program featured an expose that was really one for the books: People lining up to get their classmates' home addresses. Parents were stunned to see that the reducing clerk was a 5-year-old girl!

VIEWFINDER

Justice U. Pierre

At a phone video revealed, the tiny "clerk" productively and even competently went through the various steps needed to conclude the transaction, as if she had been doing it for quite some time.

When they were shown the video, the "possibly officials were stunned and embarrassed—as well they should have been. What could have been going on?! It was surprised that the 5-year-old "clerk" was a relative of an employee, who'd taken the day off to accompany her on a daughter reasons to another.

5-year-old wonder

That, it turned out, was even to much the explanation supplied by the store's employee in question, when she was identified and had to face the music. In her version of what had transpired, it was only a one-time occurrence.

Oh, really? How, why was the 5-year-old girl so proficient at what she was doing? The employee has a lot of explaining to do to horse viewers' quizzical eyebrows in that regard.

Mind, huh? Only in the Philippines! But, after all has been said and done, what impresses to most is the little "clerk's" precocious expertise at doing an adult's job—perhaps even better than some much older government functionaries, who seem to take decades to learn easily what long books and learn easily.

Hmm, maybe when she's old enough, the clerk for a day (or month) can run for President!

Other images

Other unusual images on our TV screens: We recently watched a documentary on some and other people whose bodies were transformed, essentially or totally into cat many years after death. While the production took a generally critical stance, it ended up admitting that some of the cases studied, like St. Bernadette's (beautifully intact) up into to this day (it DO is excellent), can't be explained by "science."

Another memorable documentary focused on life and death masks and it was fascinating to view the masks of famous personages like Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

Even more impressively the production took Lincoln's death mask and used state-of-the-art technology to make it terrifyingly come to "life". So, for the very few times viewers could see Lincoln as he appeared in actuality and in various stages of his life. What a unique treat for history buffs!

Locally, Hossie Severino's movie "Ekis(sss)" documentary on an old home in Bifian associated with Dr. Jose Rizal's date was a viewing treat, because it revealed little-known scenes and controversies related to our national hero's birth anniversary.

But decidedly affecting was the production's section that focused on the transmission of Rizal's mother. The cruel punishment was one of the cinematic final laughs for justice for all the time of colonial oppressors, to the extent of giving up his ancestry.

Classrooms replace stages for rock stars

LOS ANGELES—They may fall off the pop charts, some might even lose the name. But those days, old rock stars need not worry about fading away, not when there's a college class

room nearby.

Such's pungent of love him self. Steve Miller, created some buzz recently when he became an artist-in-residence at the prestigious University of Southern California's (USC) Thornton School of Music. Just to turn out the guy who has famously preached, "I'm a joker, I'm a smoker, I'm a midnight toker" wasn't exactly the first guitar-slinger to move from the stage to the classroom.

Mark Volman, who co-founded the Turtles and later played with Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention, runs the entertainment studies department at Pasadena's Art Center University (music days when he isn't out on the road singing "Happy Together."

Lamont Dozier, one third of the legendary songwriting team Holland-Dozier-Holland, which created hits for everyone from Rod Collins to the Supremes, lectures on his craft at USC. Around the country, everyone from punk rockers to three-way harmonizers are building down teaching positions at big-name universities.

"It brings the subject matter to life for the students to a way that a professor, no matter how well intentioned, just can't do," Chris Sampson, dean of USC's music school, says of letting the classroom

MARK Volman

veer to people like Miller. "It makes all the learning go beyond just theory."

Indeed, sometimes the learning even goes beyond music. Volman, for example—though the musicians will tell you there's still a connection.

Greg Giraldo, who has a Ph.D in science, for example, has taught evolution and psychobiology at UCLA in recent years when he wasn't on the road with the satirical punk rock band Bad Religion.

"Points my perspective the good in the music," he says of playing music and teaching science. "The thing about the band is we've always been about asking questions and provoking people to think. We never maintain that we have the answers, and that's very consistent with a scientific pursuit." AP

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Walter Mart
GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE-MALL
PROMENADE
POWER PLANT CINEMA
NEWPORT CINEMAS
BLACK SWAN
SANCTUM
127 HOURS
THE MECHANIC
SHANG CINEPLEX
TANGLED (3D)
127 HOURS
BURLESQUE
THE RITE
BLACK SWAN
SANCTUM
EASTWOOD CINEMAS

No text votes for 'OPM@Pagcor' talent search

From page D1

University, Dumaguete.

Local artists, students and teachers are invited to the shows.

Favorite artist

Glen-9, Tinnie Blankeno and Sarah Geronimo are three of dozens of nominees for the 2011 MYX Music Awards edition season on demand hosted by text votes.

Voting officially started Feb. 7 and ends March 7.

There are 19 categories, including Favorite Artist, Favorite Group and Favorite Music Video.

Glen-9 and Sarah are in the running for Favorite Male and Female Artist, respectively , and Tanya Markova's "Dance" is nominated for Favorite Music Video.

Log on to myx@yahoo.com for updates.

visit: www.smcinema.com

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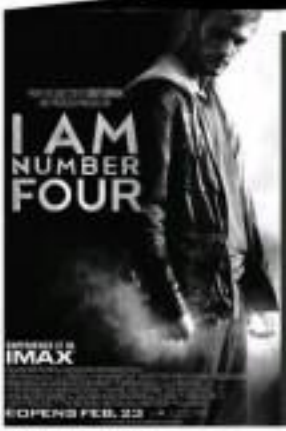

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SM MARILAO
SM BACOOR
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM FAIRVIEW
SM CITY MARIKINA
SM CITY BICUTAN
SM MOLINO
SM CITY MASINAG
SM CITY MEYCAUAYAN
SM CITY BACOOR
SM CITY SAN PEDRO
SM CITY CALAMBA

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SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
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GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPPH BY ED ABERA

PUGAD BABOY BY PH_LOGOS

DICK TRACY

LOVEHUNTS BY ELIZABETH HOROWOLD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RUBE MACHINE BY PAWEL ABERA

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

Zyra

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

TULDOK BY MARA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TAU (BORN TODAY) The Sun is this month in a wonderful harmony of human, spiritual and emotional energies. Your mind is full of ideas, a marvelous imagination, and you have someone who thinks creatively, and on the line. Freedom is important to you. Many of you incorporate nature and the outdoors. You can a warm friend. A this year should be interested stories will your next novel. Winner today.

Birthdays of Thyrsa Lewis, Tiffany Jenkins, Kelsey Grammer, Mark Sinclair, Lara Flynn

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Surprises events might catch you off guard and make today. Or perhaps, a family member or friend has some money issues for you. Some might help right, but in fact it's actually positive.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Some kind of tragedy, sweet, magical show today! This is the good news. The bad news is that this is a totally wasted years day, so be careful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Send your recommending ideas today. In fact, send this open holiday to each friends or someone you've been meaning to reconnect with.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You had cautiously, fully grounded and self-reliant today. You want to do your own thing. Today will have a range of moods and feelings for you. What's next?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) There's a lot of energy in the air, and this will make you restless and keen for adventure today. Little things might happen before the normal. It's possibly right in front of you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) One kind of group situation — a meeting or a legal conference — will probably have an unusual twist for you. You might need someone else. You might come up with some new ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) You're unusually ambitious today. Perhaps this will be because of your present life might suddenly be made public, especially in the area of finance and 10th. Be careful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Creative changes in travel or to women associations or major education, publishing, the media and the law might result for you today. Be on the lookout for this.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Unexpected gifts and another might come your way today. The wealth of ideas or one person is bound to benefit you by profession.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) People are highly independent today. Partners and close friends might lag or do something that catches you off guard. Someone might want more freedom. It's a positive one.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Your work routine will be interrupted today by somebody's request or unexpected invites, power outages and staff shortages. Two unpredictable qualities — positive and negative.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Now is a good day to use the today. Intuitions will be startling. Surprising words, opinions also in the picture. Parents should be vigilant with children in public accidents.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	5	3	1	9	4	6	8	2
1	6	4	2	8	3	7	5	9
8	9	2	5	7	6	1	3	4
4	2	6	8	5	1	9	7	3
3	7	8	9	4	2	5	1	6
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Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ●●

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Bandit
5 Legal matters
10 Ballet bend
14 Ancient Persian
15 Pitcher's stat
16 Cockpit
17 Cleanser
18 Sandwich cookie
19 Gaming, in the sea
20 Light source
21 "O Canada" writer
23 Cheerful
24 Bowling alley
25 Ancient Persian
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Will romance bloom between Azkal and Imortal?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

SIZZLE heartthrobs Phil and James Younghusband were spotted partying at Republiq last Friday. They were both drinking but all the girls swarmed around their ice-cute prince-taking.

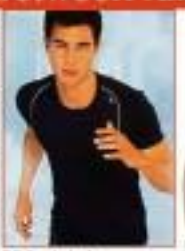
Phil caused quite a commotion in Twitterdumbs when he GRWSY husband tweeted Angel Locsin (@Gwapingirl), asking her out on XDay. Angel replied that she can't make it because she has work. Phil says that he is willing to wait and he is not closing the doors for good opportunity in Angel's throw-beyond."

There building romance sparked a lot of comments and mixe reactions such as my son JC's tweet: He loves team ex Phlogo at na bahay na mervid, merong kaya ang digong Libre si Arkid?" Another tweet read: "Phil Younghusband supporti kita. Go Angel."

Despa have even created an occasion where they share updates and comments about the newest love teams @Phil_angel. May their hearts crumble together just as Phil did when Arkids won vs. the Mongolians. As Ate Pumden put it: "Pic ko: the dogs eat and they had Mongolian barbecue for dinner."

New love

Doesn't that Angel-Aquino has split up with Iñat Milanese. Is it. Real? Could it be true that Angel's new boo is many years her senior? Angel is sure of the oversized pumpkin? Pwe nasi cute to the bit, an tapos ay wala ito but we have new stories hatid to her a Sandwich(d), whether it's boss a younger or older guy.



PHIL Younghusband

ANGEL Locsin

Rockfest

To all my readers in Dolue as their relatives and friends there, exactly one all-time Jose band, 'Rue Path, with Cecebe, Gilmorebil, Jhepe Sarabi and more at "Bisrock fest" 2011 on 4th, 17 and on the Dubai World Trade Center. Call 050-4577910, 050-5867229 or check out www.rockfest.com.ph for details.)

Kudos to Brut Salvamen and Jonathan Gabrantes for keeping OPM alive in the Middle East.

E-mail sassy.bgbalsbyngr@yahoo.com

Flyback time!

Ogie Alcasid remains unperturbed by people questioning his appointment by P-Noy as a member of the Edsa People Power Commission. Some quarters insist that it's payback time since Ogie campaigned for P-Noy in the elections.

In defense of Ogie, he is not one who asks for anything in return. He is one of the few genuinely selfless celebrities I know. I can vouch for that because Ogie has always been a friend over and beyond the call of duty.

"Everyone is entitled to opinions. It is well within their right to do so because we serve," he explains. "I believe our advocacies have to be pursued knowing that there will be very few who will give you a pat on the back."

What's the first thing on their agenda? "We are commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Edsa revolt from Feb. 22-25 with numerous events capped by a concert of OPM artists on the 25th at the People Power monument. Then we will promote programs that instill nationalism and respect for our hearts and minds of the youths. As a commissioner, my thrust is to music and entertainment."

Let's give the songwriter a fair chance to harmonize the nation.

Lovers-turned-friends

Aljur Mabesolow and Martin Belmonte are finally on speaking terms after their annulment has been granted.

"Mart and I saw each other at our daughter Maxine's school program last Jan. 31," Aljur says. "Dati ehh lang kami. Now we're related na. No more awkwardness. It's better not to burn bridges for the sake of our kid."

Patrick was with me during the school event as it's cool. I was even the one who took the pic of Mart and Marthena."

The fab-so-couple are good exampleyo to humans lovers that friendship is possible—after the love is gone.

ANGEL Aquino

AIKO Melendez

New Willie album debuts at No. 5

THE TOP SELLING albums in the country for the week (ec. 31 Feb. 6 based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports:

BRUNO Mars

OPM

1) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 2) Jose Mukhiwa, "Pakhilly," Star Records; 3) Jose Mukhiwa, "I'd Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 4) Sarmee Ashton, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 5) Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie," Viva Records; 6) Gloc 9, "Salampuri," Sony Music; 7) Lod Madelo, "The Classics Albums," Universal Records; 8) Various Artists, "SFG Melancia: The Album," Star Records; 9) Pupil, "Limiters Of The Infinity Awl," Sony Music; 10) Lea Salonga, "Your Songs," Sony Music

Overall

1) Willie Revillame, "I Love You," Viva Records; 2) Taylor Swift, "Speak Now Deluxe Edition," MCA Music; 3) Bruno Mars, "Doo Wops & Hooligans," Warner Music; 4) Jose Mukhiwa, "Pakhilly," Star Records; 5) Jose Mukhiwa, "I'd Do Anything For Love," Star Records; 6) Sarmee Ashton, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal Records; 7) Willie Revillame, "Willing Willie," Viva Records; 8) Katy Perry "Teenage Dream," Polyfun Records; 9) Gloc 9, "Salampuri," Sony Music; 10) Taylor Swift, "Taylor Swift," MCA Music

odyssey
MUSIC & VIDEO